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GENERAL REPORT
AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Concerning
THE PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM
OF THE CITY OF TORONTO
Presented to
ALDERMAN HERBERT ORLIFFE, Chairman
AND MEMBERS OF
THE COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND EXHIBITIONS
By
GEORGE T. BELL
COMMISSIONER OF PARKS AND RECREATION

October 13, 1955

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

October 8th, 1955.

Alderman Herbert Orliffe, Chairman,
and Members of the Committee on
Parks and Exhibitions.

Gentlemen:- General Report on Toronto's Parks and Recreation System

During the past year a study of the whole Parks and Recreation System in this City has been made and this Report will attempt to set forth the results of this study, together with recommendations for future improvement and expansion. In arriving at conclusions and recommendations, it was first necessary to visualize our eventual requirements and to determine within what reasonable time limits we should be able to satisfy them. The requirements set out and the recommendations contained herein are those visualized by me as necessary to provide this City with a Parks and Recreation System commensurate with the size and importance of a City as old and as great as Toronto, and have been made only after giving full consideration to those facts which are available and endeavouring to estimate locations where greatest need will appear in the next twenty-five years.

The Report has been divided into Sections, as shown in the "Table of Contents" which, in my opinion, will aid in reference and consideration of the great detail which, of necessity, had to be included.

In view of the fact that the "Recommendations" in this Report will contain many items of acquisition of lands, I feel that it is necessary for me to make some general comments in this regard:-

(a) First, I wish to point out what I consider have been some of the mistakes of the past. Too often Civic Departments and Public Utilities have been granted the use of park lands not only to facilitate them in their projects, but because such lands could be procured "without or at greatly reduced cost." From the standpoint of the project concerned, this view could be accepted but, from the standpoint of Parks, it has led to curtailment rather than development of the Parks System. If this statement appears to be overly emphatic, I refer you to my comments in the Report regarding Riverdale Park, High Park, Ramsden Park and "Ravines", where I deal with the matter as it affects each respective park.

If we are to maintain our present Parks System and expand to the point where we have an adequate first-class system, park requirements must no longer be subordinate to all other requirements, but must become of paramount importance. I can best sum up this situation by stating that proposed routes of Public Utilities, and sites for public buildings, can be changed by spending additional

amounts of money, but park acreage given away or sold for this purpose is lost to the area concerned for all time.

Monetary compensation, even if it be on the basis of value, will not return the acreage lost and the dedication of other bits and pieces of property here and there in the City, as so-called compensation (as was done when the Toronto Transit Commission took over practically the whole frontage of Yonge Street opposite Ramsden Park, thus ruining the entrance to the Rosedale Ravine) appears to me to be nothing less than futile. As a result of this particular transfer of lands, I now find it necessary to recommend the acquisition of a large acreage adjoining Ramsden Park, in order to provide this densely populated district with even a minimum of open space required. It might be said that it was absolutely necessary to use the area which was turned over to the Toronto Transit Commission, and with this I cannot quarrel, but if it was necessary, then the Public Utility should have been required to procure and turn over to the City suitable acreage for the district concerned, such as now must be procured by the City at its own expense.

There is another general item regarding the loss of park lands which I must comment on, and that is proposals which are put forward from time to time, involving the use of park lands to provide lanes for automobile entrances to the rear of privately-owned properties. In arguments for such proposals, we are faced with statements that it helps off-street parking and improves privately-owned properties by providing garage facilities. These two factors are

admitted, but the offsetting undesirable factors against the Parks System far outweigh them. In the first place, we have again lost acreage which cannot be replaced, but of far more importance is the fact that the park is provided with a lane as a boundary. Under no circumstances can a "back lane" be classed as a beauty spot, and to deliberately locate one as a park boundary is to ensure that the park will always be forced to present an unkempt area on the perimeter, rather than eventually become a total beauty spot.

(b) Some of the difficulties set out in (a), above, would be obviated if other Civic Departments and Committees were required to consult first with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Committee on Parks and Exhibitions before approving and forwarding recommendations to the Administration involving the use of Park Lands; if the Public Utilities and Commissions were advised that before proceeding to finalize plans involving the use of Park Lands, they must first submit them through the above channels; and if the Metropolitan Corporation, who finalized all plans for the Queen Street West Extension, involving the use of acres of High Park and who, I understand, are ready to submit plans for the Don Roadway, involving large areas and changes in grades in Riverdale Park, both without submitting plans and requests through the above channels, be advised that in future they must negotiate through the above channels for the use of any Park Lands they desire to use.

(c) I feel that it is necessary to recommend for sale certain dedicated Park Lands which, because of their location and surroundings, have not and never will be developed for park purposes or, because of changing conditions, are no longer required for park purposes. Fortunately we have only a small acreage of this type, some of which was acquired by "gift deed".

(d) In order that the acquisition of lands for progressive expansion of the Parks System may be carried to fruition at the least possible cost, it is necessary that some method of freezing new private construction in areas approved for acquisition be set up. My recommendation in this regard is contained in the section of this Report devoted to "Recommendations".

(e) If some of the recommendations for the acquisition of lands appear to be of major proportions, it should be remembered that while I am recommending immediate action in some cases I am, in general, recommending a procedure which will protect required lands for the future and obtain them progressively during the next twenty-five years.

(f) I have not attempted to obtain and include an estimate of the cost for land acquisition because I think this would be of little value at this time when the recommendation contemplates acquisition, in most cases, from time to time as such properties become available, rather than at present-day market prices.

I am not including anything in this Report regarding improvement in the general maintenance of Park Lands,

because I think that this is an annual matter rather than a specific project. I feel, however, that this is the proper place to state that the budget provided for the Department of Parks and Recreation this year, both for Current and Capital Expenditures, has been such as to enable us to make a long stride forward toward the rehabilitation of the Parks System. While public comments have been good enough to indicate that improvement has been achieved, the full effect of this year's budget will not be apparent until late next year. There are three reasons for this condition, as follows:-

(1) Provision of funds from Current Account for new mechanical and automotive equipment which is now being received and which will permit us to accomplish much more than was possible in past years.

(2) Construction of new Central Greenhouses, from funds provided from Capital Account, should be completed and placed in use in the late Summer of next year. This will permit us to enter new fields of horticulture and to provide an abundance of plants required for our expanding programme of flower bed planting and botanical displays.

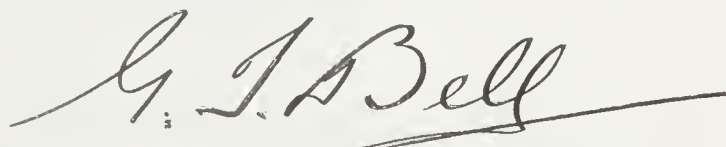
(3) Reconstruction of Allan Gardens, both in the park and in the greenhouse show rooms, from funds provided from Capital Account, should be completed and in use next year.

Should I, at any point in this Report, appear to have been critical of present-day conditions or deficiencies, etc., I ask that this be not considered as criticisms of

any individual or previous Administration, because I am aware of the many frustrations of the past, particularly during the depression years when money was not available, and afterwards, during World War II, when man power was not available and when, on patriotic grounds, new expenditures were curtailed. Criticisms which may appear are included only to emphasize changes, improvements and expansions required.

In closing, I desire to express my appreciation to those members of the Administration who have encouraged and aided me in the preparation of this Report and, in particular, to Alderman Herbert Orliffe, Chairman of your Committee, with whom I have spent many hours in discussion and who, at all times, has displayed a keen and active interest in this Report. I must also acknowledge the patience shown by the members of your Committee who, on many occasions, have waived their right to press for specific individual reports and permitted me to include such matters herein. I also desire to express my appreciation for the continued and valuable assistance received from members of the staff of this Department, who spent much of their own time with me and without whom final preparation of this Report would not have been possible.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner of Parks
and Recreation.

1 HC
GTB
Encl.

EXISTING PARKS LANDS

This Section contains a list of those lands which are owned by the City of Toronto and either Dedicated for Park purposes or Designated for Park purposes, together with certain lands owned by the Toronto Harbour Commissioners and used by the Department of Parks and Recreation. In most cases the acreage figures used are all accurate, but there could be minor variances in some others because of difficulty in obtaining positive limits in Deeds. Investigation to clarify the whole situation regarding these lands has been under way for the past year and I now feel that they can be submitted with reasonable certainty of accuracy.

It will be noted that in the column headed "Comments" more or less specific phraseology has been used. In order that these may be clearly understood, I set out the following key:-

"Dedicated - Clear" These properties have been dedicated by City By-Law as "Parks Lands" without covenant.

"Dedicated - Covenant" These properties have been dedicated, either by City By-Law or by Gift Deed, and such dedication includes a covenant requiring that lands be used only for Parks or Parks and Recreation purposes.

"Not Dedicated" These properties have been either designated for or assumed as properties for Parks purposes but have never been Dedicated as such by City By-Law.

EXISTING PARKS LANDS (continued)

"Harbour Lands" These properties are owned by the Toronto Harbour Commissioners but the City, by agreement, has the use of them for Parks purposes and they cannot be otherwise used without the consent of the City of Toronto.

It will be noted that, in many cases, none of the acreage which has been in use for years as City Parks has ever been dedicated. In other cases, part of the acreage only has been dedicated. I am unable to ascertain why this condition exists, and can only presume that the necessary action was never initiated. I am of the opinion that the necessary steps should be taken to clear this whole situation.

The list contains certain lands which have actually been taken over by the Metropolitan Corporation, and this was done because of the fact that actual conveyance has not been completed and because this Department is continuing to maintain them for and at the expense of the Metropolitan Corporation. Among these are parts of the St. Clair and Rosehill Reservoirs and certain boulevards.

S U M M A R Y

Dedicated - Clear	862.366 acres
Dedicated - Covenant	605.532 "
Not Dedicated	662.708 "
Harbour Lands	111.813 "
Leased Lands	29.540 "
Undetermined	13.800 "
	<hr/>
TOTAL	2,285.759 acres
	<hr/>

<u>PARK OR AREA</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
ALEXANDRA PARK	Dundas and Bathurst Streets	6.800	Dedicated - Clear
ALLAN GARDENS	Gerrard and Sherbourne Streets	10.100	Dedicated - Covenant
AVENUE ROAD & BRIAR HILL	Avenue Road & Briar Hill Ave.	.071	Dedicated - Clear
AVENUE ROAD PARK	Avenue Road & C.N.R. tracks	.565	Dedicated - Clear
AVENUE ROAD SQUARES	Avenue Road & St. Clair Avenue	1.030	Not Dedicated
BAIRD PARK	Keele Street & Humberside Avenue	2.480	Dedicated - Clear
BALSAM AVENUE PLAYGROUND	Balsam Ave., North of Queen Street	1.278	Dedicated - Clear
BEACHES PARK	Lakeshore - Woodbine Avenue to Silver Birch Avenue	24.370	Dedicated - Clear
BEATY BOULEVARD	King Street W. and Wilson Avenue	.830	Dedicated - Covenant
BELLEVUE SQUARE	N.W. of Dundas Street & Spadina Ave.	1.150	Not Dedicated
BELLWOODS PARK	Dundas and Crawford Streets	.618 <u>4.220</u>	Dedicated - Clear Dedicated - Covenant
	TOTAL	4.838	
BERESFORD PARK	Beresford Ave. & Colbeck Street	1.448	Dedicated - Clear
BICKFORD PARK	Bloor Street & Montrose Avenue	13.530	Dedicated - Clear
BLYTHWOOD RAVINE	S.E. of Yonge St. & Lawrence Avenue	10.326	Dedicated - Clear
BOULTON DRIVE PARKETTE	Boulton & Cottingham Road	.221	Not Dedicated

<u>PARK OR AREA</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
BOULTON DRIVE & ROYCROFT	Boulton Drive & Roycroft Drive	.275	Not Dedicated
BOULTON DRIVE & POPLAR PLAINS	Boulton Drive & Poplar Plains	.700	Not Dedicated
BROCKTON PLAYGROUND	Dundas and Dufferin Streets	2.250	Dedicated - Clear
CAMPBELL AVENUE PLAYGROUND	S.W. of Dupont St. & Lansdowne Ave.	3.550	Dedicated - Clear
CARLTON PARK	Franklin and Edith Avenues	.593	Dedicated - Clear
	TOTAL	<u>2.027</u>	Dedicated - Covenant
		2.620	
CARSTOWE ROAD LANDS	Mt. Pleasant & C.P.R. tracks	.272	Dedicated - Clear
CASSELLS AVENUE PLAYGROUND	S.E. of Gerrard St. & Woodbine	3.870	Dedicated - Clear
CAWTHRA PLAYGROUND	S.E. of Bathurst St. & Davenport	.470	Dedicated - Covenant
CHATSWORTH RAVINE	S.W. of Yonge St. & Lawrence Ave.	15.320	Dedicated - Clear
CHELSEA AVENUE PLAYGROUND	Indian Road and Chelsea Ave.	.249	Not Dedicated
CLARENCE SQUARE	Wellington St. and Spadina Ave.	1.630	Dedicated - Covenant
CLARKE BEACH (Cherry and Simcoe Beach)	Foot of Cherry Street	Undefined	City using Harbour Lands without vested rights.
COTTINGHAM SQUARE	Cottingham St. W. of Yonge St.	1.700	Dedicated - Clear
COXWELL STADIUM	Coxwell Ave. & Hanson St.	1.390	Not Dedicated
CRAIGLEIGH GARDENS	South Rosedale	11.065	Dedicated - Covenant
	TOTAL	<u>.003</u>	Dedicated - Clear
		11.068	12

<u>PARK OR AREA</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
CROSS ST. SERVICE BUILDING	Cross Street	.724	Not Dedicated
DAVENPORT SQUARE	Davenport Rd. & Bathurst Street	1.080	Dedicated - Covenant
DAVISVILLE PARK	Mt. Pleasant Rd. & Millwood Rd.	5.400	Dedicated - Clear
DENTONIA ATHLETIC FIELD	Walnut Ave. & Avonlea Blvd.	8.570	Dedicated - Clear
DENTONIA NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	Dentonia & Maryland Blvd.	2.540	Dedicated - Clear
DENTONIA MEMORIAL PARK	Scarborough & East York	60.000	Dedicated - Covenant
DOEL AVENUE PLAYGROUND	Doel & Greenwood Avenues	4.520	Dedicated - Clear
DON VALLEY LANDS	N. of Riverdale Park	73.855	Not Dedicated
DOVERCOURT PARK	Bartlett & Fernbank Avenues	6.100	Dedicated - Covenant
DUFFERIN GROVE	Dufferin St. & Sylvan Avenue	12.120	Dedicated - Clear
EARLSCOURT PARK	St. Clair and Lansdowne Avenues	22.370	Dedicated - Clear
		<u>4.610</u>	Not Dedicated
	TOTAL	26.980	
EAST LYNN PARK	Danforth & East Lynn Avenues	2.810	Dedicated - Clear
EAST RIVERDALE PLAYGROUND	Queen St. & Coxwell Avenue	2.100	Not Dedicated
EAST TORONTO ATHLETIC FIELD	Main and Gerrard Streets	4.580	Not Dedicated
EDGEWOOD PARK	Dundas St. & Edgewood Ave.	1.389	Dedicated - Clear
		<u>1.417</u>	Not Dedicated
	TOTAL	2.806	
EGLINTON PARK	Eglinton Avenue	22.140	Dedicated - Clear

<u>PARK OR AREA</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
EXHIBITION PARK	Dufferin Street	21.050 137.200 <u>46.900</u> 205.150	Dedicated - Clear Dedicated - Covenant Not Dedicated
	TOTAL		
FAIRMOUNT PARK	Gerrard St. E. of Coxwell Ave.	1.708 <u>3.040</u> 4.748	Dedicated - Clear Not Dedicated
	TOTAL		
FELSTEAD PLAYGROUND	Greenwood & Felstead Avenues	4.620	Dedicated - Clear
FRED HAMILTON PLAYGROUND	Roxton Road	6.010	Dedicated - Clear
GLEBE MANOR SQUARES	Belsize Drive	2.180	Dedicated - Covenant
GLENLAKE AND GLENDONWYNNE	(Corner Lot)	.070	Dedicated - Clear
GLEN STEWART PARK	Glen Manor Drive	11.000	Dedicated - Covenant
GRANGE PARK	Dundas & Beverley Streets	6.860 <u>.230</u> 7.090	Dedicated - Covenant Dedicated - Clear
	TOTAL		
GREENWOOD PARK	Doel and Greenwood Avenues	4.480 <u>11.228</u> 15.708	Dedicated - Clear Not Dedicated
	TOTAL		
HARBOUR SQUARE	Harbour and Bay Streets	3.580	Not Dedicated
HIGH PARK	Bloor Street & High Park Ave.	159.600 <u>237.200</u> 396.800	Dedicated - Covenant Not Dedicated
	TOTAL		
HILLCREST PARK	Christie St. & Davenport Rd.	5.100	Dedicated - Clear

<u>PARK OR AREA</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
HILLSIDE PARK	Wellesley Street East	1.200	Dedicated - Covenant
HUBBARD BOULEVARD	Hammersmith & Maclean Avenues	2.000	Dedicated - Clear
HUMBER BOULEVARD	River Lands - Queen to Dundas Sts.	12.500	Dedicated - Clear
		<u>110.870</u>	Dedicated - Covenant
	TOTAL	123.370	
HUMBERSIDE PARK	Humberside & Quebec Avenues	1.900	On Lease from Board of Education
HUMBERVIEW PARK	West of Jane Street	3.500	Dedicated - Clear (Presently leased to York Township for \$1.00 per year)
HURON STREET PLAYGROUND	Huron St. & Lowther Avenue	.460	Dedicated - Clear
INDIAN MOUND	Indian Trail	.140	Dedicated - Covenant
ISLAND	Toronto Bay	371.000	Dedicated - Clear
JOHN INNES RECREATION CENTRE	Sherbourne & Shuter Sts.	1.200	Dedicated - Clear
KENDAL SQUARE	Kendal & Bernard Avenues	.190	Dedicated - Clear
		<u>1.030</u>	Not Dedicated
	TOTAL	1.220	
KETCHUM PARK	Bay St. & Davenport Road	1.051	Dedicated - Covenant
		<u>1.919</u>	Not Dedicated
	TOTAL	2.970	
KETCHUM PLAYGROUND	Bay St. & Davenport Road	.180	Dedicated - Clear

<u>PARK OR AREA</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
KEW GARDENS	Lee Avenue & Queen Street	19.573	Dedicated - Clear
LAKESHORE BOULEVARD	Spencer Avenue to Humber River	61.013	Harbour Lands
		12.110	Dedicated - Clear
		3.000	Not Dedicated
	TOTAL	<u>76.123</u>	
LAKESHORE PARK	East of Strachan Avenue	6.210	Dedicated - Covenant
		<u>40.601</u>	Not Dedicated
	TOTAL	46.811	
LAWRENCE PARK	Yonge Street & Lawrence Avenue	15.410	Not Dedicated
		<u>.508</u>	Dedicated - Clear
	TOTAL	15.918	
LAWLOR PLAYGROUND	Lawlor Ave. & Kingston Road	.420	Dedicated - Covenant
LAWTON GORE	Yonge Street & Lawton Blvd.	.079	Not Dedicated
LESLIE GROVE PLAYGROUND	Queen Street & Jones Avenue	1.850	Dedicated - Covenant
LYTTON PARK	Lytton Blvd. & Alexandra Blvd.	2.280	Dedicated - Clear
MACGREGOR PLAYGROUND	Lansdowne Ave. & College Street	3.020	Not Dedicated
MAHER CIRCLE	Maher and Gilmour Avenues	.192	Not Dedicated
MCCLEARY PARK	Logan Ave. and Keating Street	6.000	Not Dedicated
MCCORMICK PLAYGROUND	Brock Ave. & Middleton Street	2.120	Not Dedicated
		<u>.530</u>	Dedicated - Clear
	TOTAL	2.650	
McGEE PLAYGROUND	Queen Street & McGee Street	.148	Not Dedicated

<u>PARK OR AREA</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
MONARCH PARK	Monarch Park and Coxwell Avenues	9.110	Not Dedicated
		<u>3.170</u>	Dedicated - Clear
	TOTAL	12.280	
MONCUR PLAYGROUND	Gainsborough Rd. and Cairns Ave.	.736	Dedicated - Covenant
		<u>.764</u>	Dedicated - Clear
	TOTAL	1.500	
MOOREVALE PARK	Moore Avenue & Welland Street	.562	Dedicated - Clear
		<u>3.290</u>	Not Dedicated
	TOTAL	3.852	
MORSE PLAYGROUND	Morse Street & Eastern Avenue	.800	Not Dedicated
		<u>.340</u>	Dedicated - Clear
	TOTAL	1.140	
MOSS PARK	Sherbourne Ave. & Shuter Street	1.980	Dedicated - Clear
MOUNT ROYAL SQUARE	Mount Royal and Alberta Avenues	.143	Not Dedicated
NORWOOD PARK	Norwood Road and Gerrard Street	4.040	Not Dedicated
OAKMOUNT PARK	Keele St. and Glenlake Avenue	5.655	Dedicated - Clear
OLD FORT YORK AND BURIAL GROUNDS	Strachan Avenue & Fleet Street	21.658	Dedicated - Covenant
O'NEILL PLAYGROUND	Regent and St. David Streets	.590	Dedicated - Clear
ORIOLE PARK	Chaplin Cres. and Oriole Parkway	7.420	Dedicated - Clear
OSLER PLAYGROUND	Argyle Street	.830	Not Dedicated

<u>PARK OR AREA</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
OSSINGTON RECREATION CENTRE	Ossington Avenue	.147	Not Dedicated
PAPE RECREATION CENTRE	Pape Avenue & Gerrard Street	2.750	Not Dedicated
PARK SCHOOL PLAYGROUND	Sackville and St. David Streets	.627	Dedicated - Clear
PERTH SQUARE	Perth Avenue and Dupont Street	2.080	Dedicated - Clear
PLAYTER GARDENS	Danforth and Cambridge Avenues	.610	Dedicated - Covenant
PRICEFIELD PLAYGROUND	Pricefield Road	1.040	Dedicated - Clear
PRINCE EDWARD VIADUCT LANDS	Bloor Street & Castle Frank Rd.	2.500	Not Dedicated
PUBLIC LIBRARY GROUNDS	College and St. George Streets	1.900	Not Dedicated
QUEEN'S PARK	The area south and north of the Parliament Buildings, including some roads	25.740	On 999-year lease from the University of Toronto
RAMSDEN PARK	Yonge Street	9.620	Dedicated - Clear
RAVINA GARDENS	Clendenan Avenue & Rowland Street	4.413	Not Dedicated
	TOTAL	<u>1.181</u> 5.594	Dedicated - Clear
REGENT PARK	Sackville Street	1.450	Dedicated - Clear
RIVERDALE PARK	Broadview Avenue	8.070	Not Dedicated
	TOTAL	<u>96.010</u> 104.080	Dedicated - Clear
ROEHAMPTON PARK	Roehampton Avenue	1.550	Dedicated - Covenant

<u>PARK OR AREA</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
ROSEDALE PARK	Schofield Avenue	7.310	Not Dedicated
ROSEDALE RAVINE - NORTH	Mt. Pleasant Rd. to Don Valley	7.160	Not Dedicated
ROSEDALE RAVINE - SOUTH	Yonge Street to Don Valley	13.800	(Not Dedicated (Dedicated - Clear (Dedicated - Covenant
ROSEHILL RESERVOIR PARK	Rosehill and Avoca Avenues	5.600 13.200 <u>32.030</u> 50.830	Dedicated - Clear Dedicated - Covenant Not Dedicated
ROYCROFT PARK	Roycroft Drive & Russell Hill Rd.	.866	Not Dedicated
RUNNYMEDE PARK	Ryding Avenue	4.480 <u>4.400</u> 8.880	Not Dedicated Dedicated - Clear
ST. ALBAN'S SQUARE	Barton and Albany Avenues	.232	Dedicated - Covenant
ST. ANDREW'S PLAYGROUND	Adelaide and Brant Streets	1.630	Dedicated - Covenant
ST. CLAIR RESERVOIR	St. Clair Ave. & Spadina Road	21.700	Not Dedicated
ST. CLAIR VIADUCT	St. Clair Avenue East	6.425	Not Dedicated
ST. JAMES' PLAYGROUND	Wellesley Street	3.670	Dedicated - Covenant
SHERWOOD PARK	Sherwood Avenue	30.240 <u>9.720</u> 39.960	Not Dedicated Dedicated - Clear
	TOTAL		

<u>PARK OR AREA</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
STANLEY PARK	King Street and Walnut Avenue	7.694	Dedicated - Clear
TED REEVE ARENA	Main and Gerrard Streets	1.855	Dedicated - Clear
TRINITY PARK	Queen Street and Strachan Avenue	31.304	Not Dedicated
UNIVERSITY AVENUE BOULEVARDS	Adelaide St. to Queen's Park	2.864	Not Dedicated
VERMONT SQUARE	Vermont and Palmerston Avenues	1.970	Dedicated - Clear
VICTORIA SQUARE	Wellington and Bathurst Streets	1.900	Leased from Crown
VINE PLAYGROUND	Vine and McMurray Streets	.580	Not Dedicated
WADSWORTH PARK	Laughton Avenue and Connolly St.	4.040	Not Dedicated
WALMER CIRCLE	Walmer Road and Lowther Avenue	.206	Dedicated - Covenant
WANLESS PARK	Wanless and Kappelle Avenues	7.920	Dedicated - Clear
WELLS HILL PARK	St. Clair and Hilton Avenues	2.220	Not Dedicated
WESTON ROAD PLAYGROUND	Old Weston Road & St. Clair Ave.	.757	Not Dedicated
		<u>1.216</u>	Dedicated - Clear
	TOTAL	1.973	
WHITNEY PARK	Roxborough St. and Glen Road	.860	Not Dedicated
WILLOWVALE PARK	Bloor and Christie Streets	3.781	Not Dedicated
		<u>18.670</u>	Dedicated - Clear
	TOTAL	22.451	

<u>PARK OR AREA</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
WITHROW PARK	Withrow and Bain Avenues	.330	Not Dedicated
		<u>19.950</u>	Dedicated - Clear
	TOTAL	20.280	
WOBURN PLAYGROUND	Woburn Ave. & Jedburgh Road	.600	Dedicated - Clear
WOODBINE BEACH	West of Woodbine Avenue	50.800	Harbour Lands
WOODGREEN PARK	Eglinton and Woodbine Avenues	25.937	Dedicated - Covenant
YORK MILLS	Hogg's Hollow	10.080	Dedicated - Clear

PARK LANDS AND SERVICES SITUATED OUTSIDE CITY

In years past the City of Toronto acquired certain lands outside the limits of the City for the purpose of development as Parks Areas when future annexations took place. Some of these lands were purchased and some of them were deeded to the City. Following is a list of these lands, all located beyond the actual limits of the Corporation of the City of Toronto:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Location</u>
DENTONIA MEMORIAL PARK	60.000	Scarborough and East York
DON VALLEY LANDS	53.000	East York
HUMBER BOULEVARD	123.370	Swansea and York Township
HUMBERVIEW PARK	3.500	York Township
SHERWOOD PARK	20.660	North York
WOODGREEN PARK	25.937	North York
YORK MILLS	10.080	York Township

296.547 acres

TORONTO ISLANDS

At the present time negotiations are under way between the City of Toronto and the Metropolitan Corporation, with a view to the latter body taking over the jurisdiction of and assuming responsibility for the Toronto Islands.

In view of this situation, I do not deem it proper for me to submit my comments and recommendations regarding this most important area at this time.

The following Sections deal with individual Park or Playground sites and in some cases with the necessity of acquiring additional lands to supplement existing holdings, or in a few isolated cases proposals to dispose of Park Lands.

At the present time the total acreage of City of Toronto Parks Lands is 2,285.759 acres. This figure includes those lands located outside the City Limits, Toronto Islands and certain lands which are being taken over by the Metropolitan Corporation but which we maintain at their expense.

The population of the City of Toronto at last Assessment was 682,415 and, on that basis, we have at present an average figure of 3.35 acres of Park Lands per 1,000 population. While there is a theoretical ideal figure of 10 acres of Park Land per 1,000 population, it is doubtful that any City as old as Toronto, with total barriers on all sides of it - the Lake to the South and adjoining Municipalities on all other three sides - has reached that figure; nevertheless, Toronto is obviously far behind a desirable minimum and, as a result many thousands of our citizens are deprived of pleasant sitting-out places where they may spend leisure hours during week-ends and evenings. In this connection, it is becoming more and more apparent that, due to traffic congestion on highways, a continually decreasing

number of citizens are "going for a drive" out of the City for an hour or so and, instead, are turning to our park areas to provide them with a cool spot on a hot evening or week-end. Added to that is the fact that the City is progressively increasing its apartment dwellings and decreasing its individual homes with adjoining back-yards. There is little doubt that this trend will not only continue but will increase and will place an ever-increasing load on our limited park facilities. This is a statement of fact and not one of theory - each week-end inspections of our parks were carried out, as well as periodic inspections on week day evenings, and the use of park lands and beach areas has reached an amazingly high point.

There can be no doubt, then, that steps must be taken to increase the City's Park Lands by the acquisition of more and more acreage as the opportunity presents itself. To this end, it is not sufficient that such a policy simply be approved, but it is necessary to implement the policy by immediate action and, for that reason, I have incorporated in this Report a specific recommendation to that effect. I have made the recommendation referred to with a full awareness that the cost involved will be great and that it would have been much smaller had action been taken years ago; action, however, was not taken then and unless action is commenced now, we will be just as far

away from the objective five, ten or twenty years from now
as we are at present.

ALLAN GARDENS AND MOSS PARK

Toronto is without a major park in the lower downtown district. The largest area we have at present is the Allan Gardens Park which is 10.1 acres in extent, bounded on the south by Gerrard Street, on the east by Sherbourne Street, on the north by Carlton Street and on the west by the rear of private properties on the east side of Jarvis Street and Horticultural Avenue.

Allan Gardens is one of Toronto's oldest parks and used to be one of its finest. Unfortunately, in recent years, it has become dilapidated, partly from neglect and partly because it has been invaded by many unsavoury characters whose presence deters many citizens from using the Park. This year the Administration provided \$150,000 in the Capital Appropriations to restore this Park and greenhouses to provide both an indoor and outdoor botanical gardens. Specifications are being prepared for the greenhouse work and a consultant has been retained to plan the complete outdoor renovation. The greenhouses in this Park will not be used to grow plants but will be used solely to provide continuous displays of tropical and native plants, bulbs, etc.

The area to the east, north and west of the Park is densely populated and this condition also prevails in the

ALLAN GARDENS AND MOSS PARK (continued)

area to the southeast. The completed Regent Park Development has increased this condition and the projected extension to this development will further increase it. It is my opinion that the future will see this density increased by the construction of large apartments in the Jarvis, Carlton, Sherbourne area.

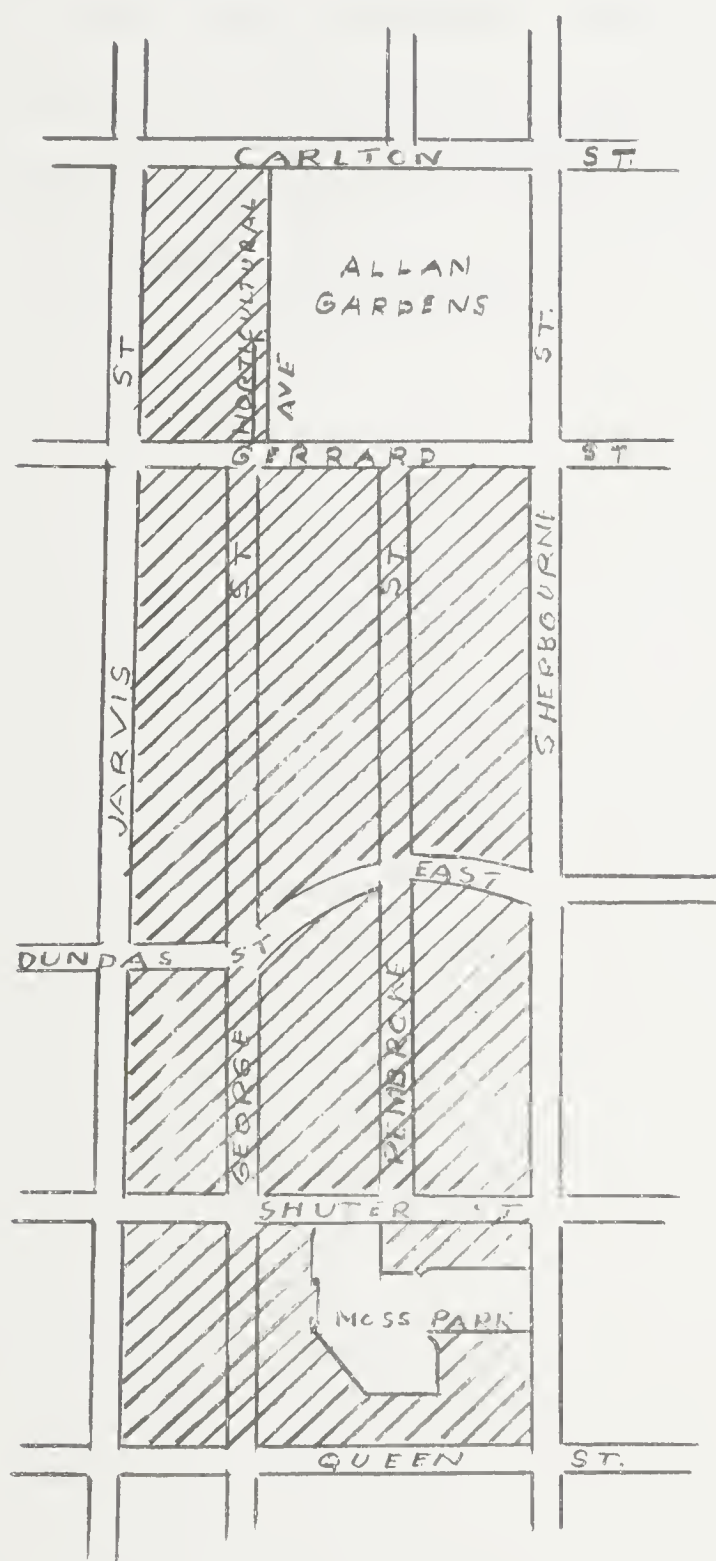
A City as old, as large and as important as Toronto should definitely have a large downtown park which would compare favourably with those already established in other large North American Cities. The logical method for development of this type of park would be to incorporate the existing Allan Gardens and Moss Park which is located in the area bounded by Moss Park Place on the south, partly by Sherbourne Street on the east, partly by Shuter Street on the north and the rear of private properties on the east side of George Street on the west and to progressively acquire all privately owned properties in the area bounded by Queen Street on the south, Sherbourne Street on the east, Carlton Street on the north and Jarvis Street on the west. In addition it would be necessary to close those portions of Pembroke Street and George Street within that area.

The lower section of the area described would be used to house the John Innes Recreation Centre, located

ALLAN GARDENS AND MOSS PARK (continued)

there at the present time, together with other recreation facilities and the areas between Shuter Street and Carlton Street would be developed as a general park area complete with botanical gardens, shallow ornamental water pools, etc.

I realize that this is a major proposal involving, as it would, the acquisition of a considerable acreage of expensive downtown property but I am convinced that if the proposal were accomplished the sides of Jarvis Street, Carlton Street and Sherbourne Street then facing the park, would be utilized for the erection of high class residential hotels and apartment suites, which in assessment and resultant taxation would eventually repay the City for its original Capital outlay.



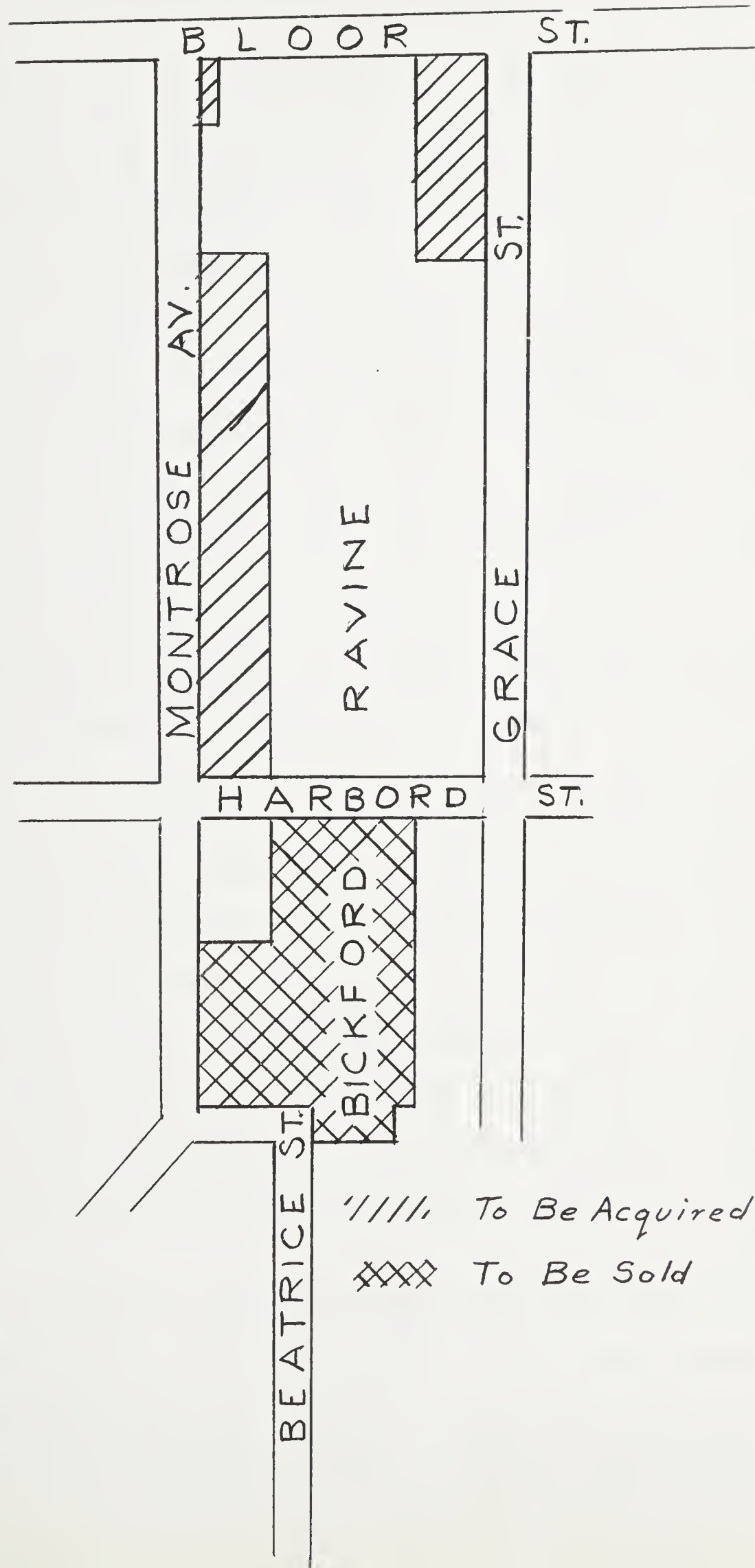
//////// To be Progressively Acquired

BALSAM AVENUE PLAYGROUND

This is a strip of land leading from Balsam Avenue to the Glen Manor Ravine. Owing to its narrowness and grade it is of no value as a site for a playground but it should be retained for development as a future beautified entrance to the ravine.

BICKFORD PARK

At the present time this park consists of two pieces of property, one north and one south of Harbord Street, with neither of them being ideal for park or recreational development. The section south of Harbord Street is particularly unsatisfactory. This situation could be cleared up and greatly improved parks and recreational facilities provided if the City were to progressively acquire all privately owned land in the block bounded on the south by Harbord Street, on the east by Grace Street, on the north by Bloor Street and on the west by Montrose Avenue, and by disposing of all parks properties on the south side of Harbord Street.



MCCORMICK RECREATION CENTRE

McCormick Recreation Centre is located on Brock Avenue, between Middleton Street and Frankish Avenue, but the east boundary consists of the rear of houses on Sheridan Avenue and Frankish Avenue. This particular Centre is the first Permanent one constructed in the City of Toronto, following an original gift to the City by the late Miss M. V. McCormick, who deeded the original site of .530 acres and paid for the construction of the original building. Later the City acquired an additional 2.120 acres, increasing the total size to 2.650 acres. This Centre, one of the most used and popular in Toronto, is located just 400 feet from the Brockton Playground, which has no Permanent buildings.

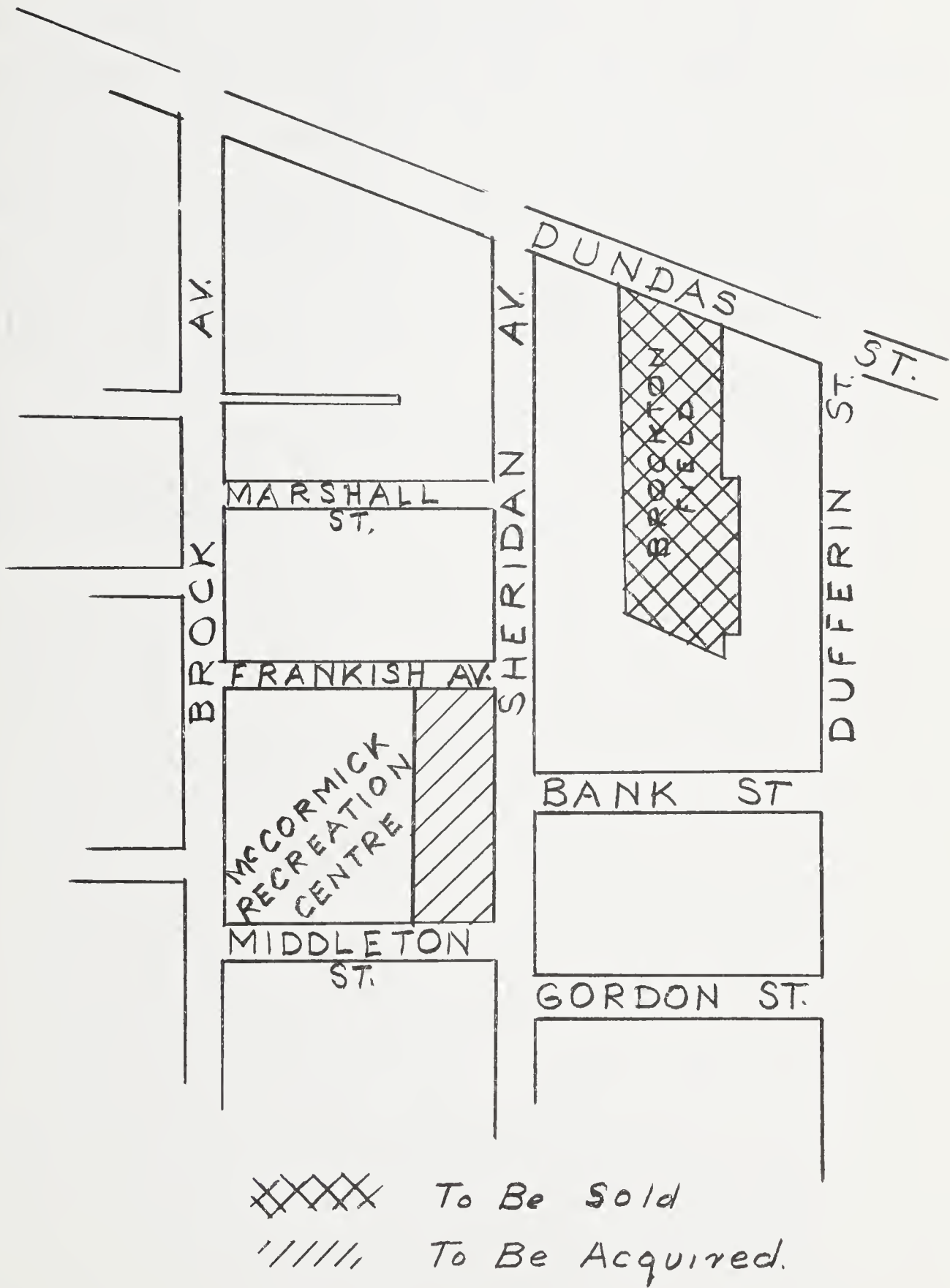
Brockton Playground is located on the south side of Dundas Street West, just west of Dufferin Street, and is actually a narrow corridor piece of property 2.250 acres in extent, with a heavy slope from north to south. This site was acquired in recent years, and attempts to use it for recreation purposes have not been particularly successful. The lot is not wide enough even for minor softball, the only recreation activity which has been carried out there.

The District involved would have far more satisfactory service if the McCormick Centre were enlarged by progressively acquiring the privately owned properties on the west side of Sheridan Avenue, between Middleton Street

McCORMICK RECREATION CENTRE (continued)

and Frankish Avenue and on the south side of Frankish Avenue, immediately west of Sheridan Avenue. If this acquisition was consummated, the City should then dispose of the existing 2.250 acres known as Brockton Playground.

A separate Section of this Report deals with the construction of a modern Recreation Centre Building, complete with swimming pool, at the McCormick Centre.



CHELSEA AVENUE PLAYGROUND

This is a small Children's Playground which is greatly used. The frontage on Chelsea Avenue is approximately seventy feet but, for some unknown reason, the Department for several years past has been using an additional 40 feet adjoining to the east, which is privately owned. As a matter of fact, three years ago the Department filled, graded and sodded this 40 feet wide area. I am of the opinion that the City should immediately acquire the 40-foot strip, as it is needed if even a small playground is to be operated.

CHELSEA

AVE.

54'6"

Back Yards

CHELSEA AV. PLAYGROUND

79'2"

40'3"

Vacant Land
To Be Acquired

161'1"

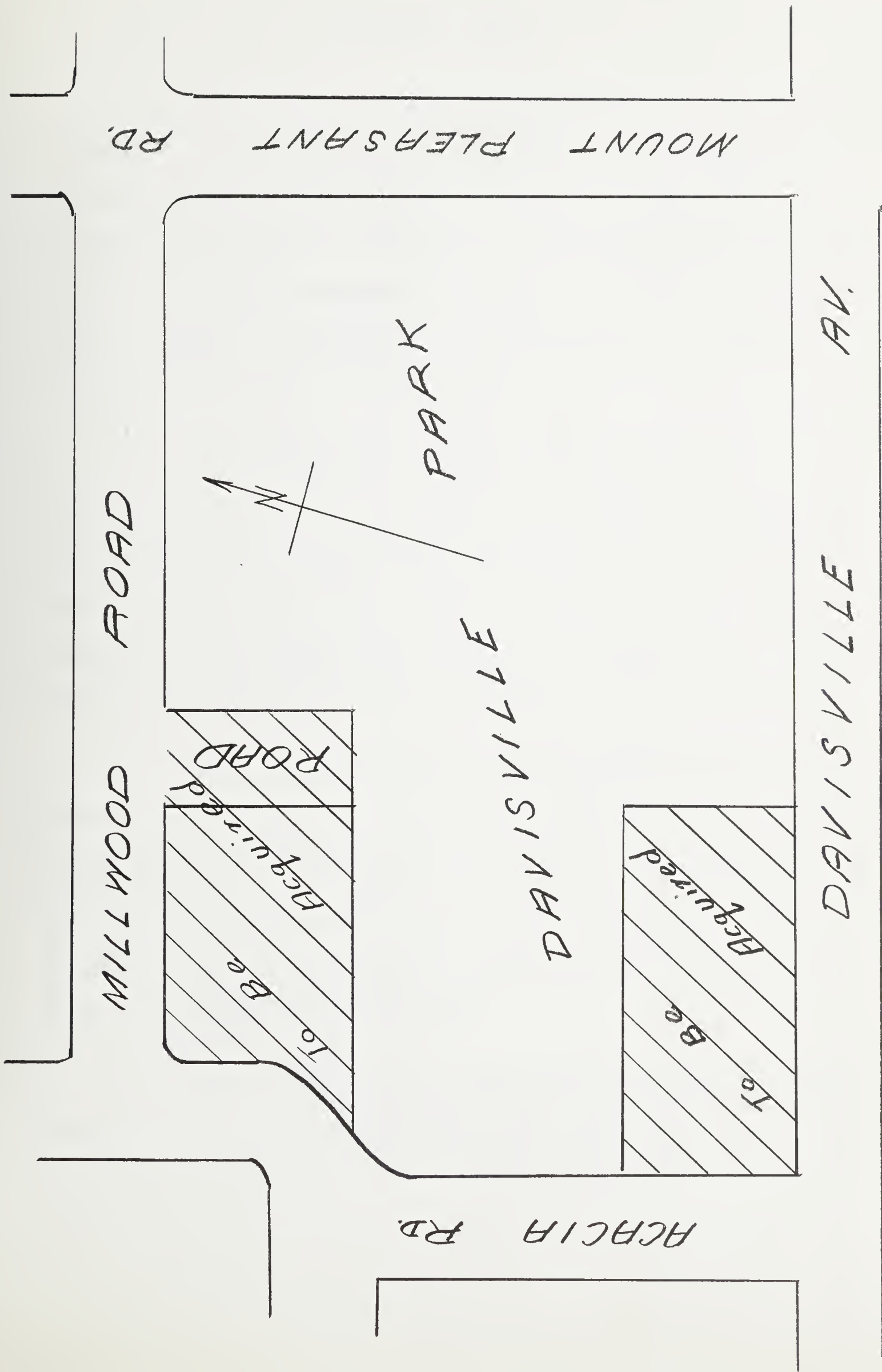
Back Yards

Back Yards



DAVISVILLE PARK

This Park is 5.400 acres in extent and is bounded on the East by Mount Pleasant Road, on the north by part of Millwood Road, on the west by part of Acacia Rd., and on the south by part of Davisville Avenue. In the main it is an athletic field containing facilities for Tennis, Lawn Bowling, Baseball and Children's Playground with wading pool but there is little or no area available for beautification or sitting out. The Park is very popular and I am of the opinion that the City should progressively acquire properties necessary to increase the boundaries of this Park to a full block bounded by Mount Pleasant Road, Millwood Road, Acacia Road and Davisville Avenue. This would also require closing an unnamed road allowance presently shown on the Plan as running south from a point on Millwood Road.



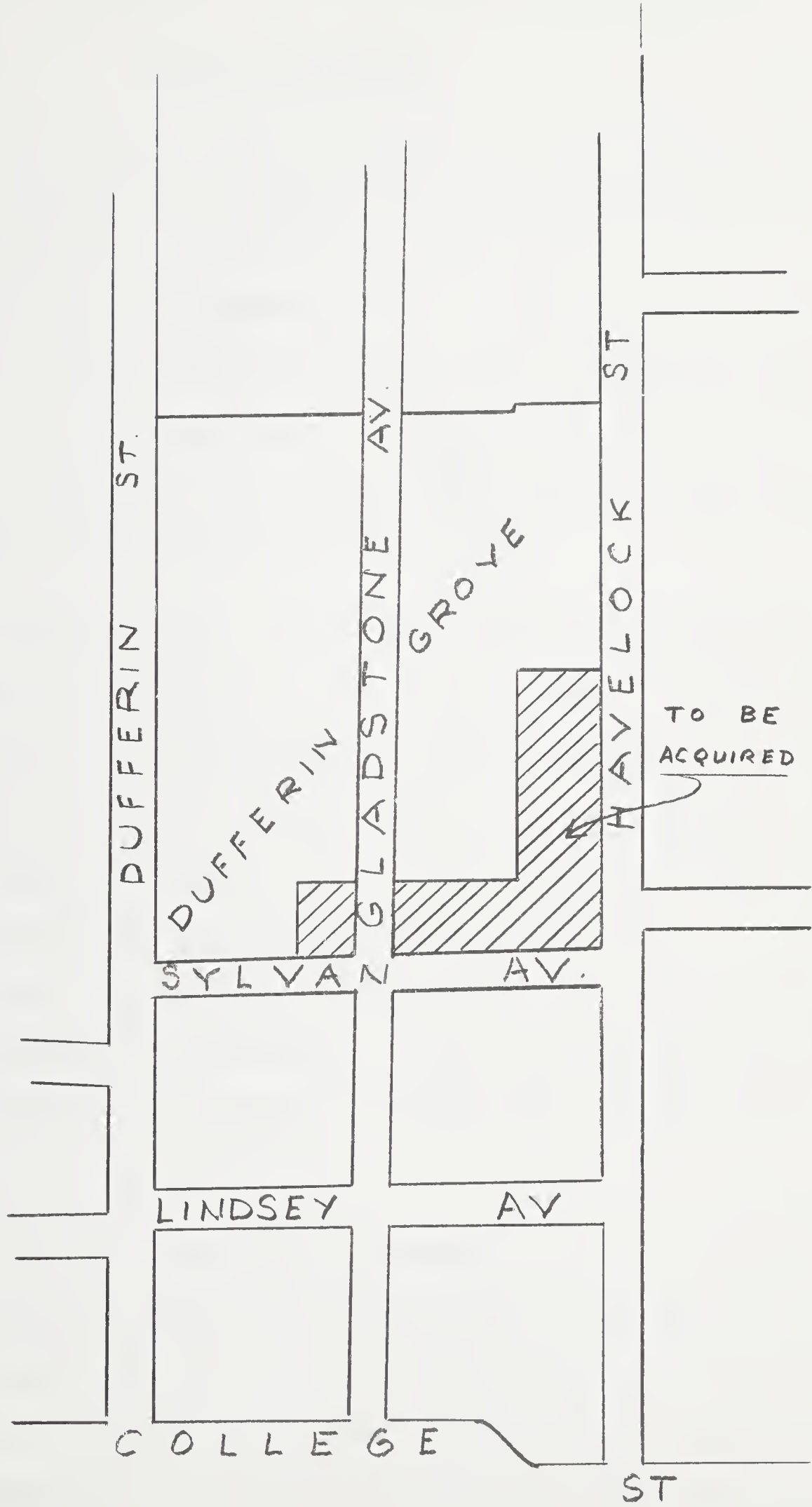
DUFFERIN GROVE

This park contains 12.120 acres and is bounded on the south by part of Sylvan Avenue, on the east by part of Havelock Street, on the north by flankages of properties fronting on Havelock Street and Dufferin Street, and on the west by Dufferin Street. Gladstone Avenue, a public street running from north to south, traverses the approximate centre of this park.

This Department operates tennis courts, a children's playground, the Abe Orpen Memorial Wading Pool, and, in addition, a new permanent artificial ice rink has been completed and will commence operation this year. The contour of this park lends itself to horticultural development, which should be proceeded with as soon as possible.

The privately owned properties on Havelock Street, abutting the south-east corner of the present park, and all properties on Sylvan Avenue, abutting the park, should be progressively acquired to round out this park. Upon completion of the suggested acquisition, the park would have an acreage of 14.44 acres.

The Section of this Report dealing with Swimming Pools includes a recommendation for a pool at this location.



EARLSCOURT PARK

This park, which is bounded on the south by Davenport Road, on the east by part of Lansdowne Avenue, on the north by St. Clair Avenue, and on the west by Caledonia Road, is 26.980 acres in extent. At the present time there are 54 temporary housing units located on the southern section of the west frontage which, under Board of Control Report No. 21, adopted in Council on July 20th, 1955, must be vacated by June 30th, 1956.

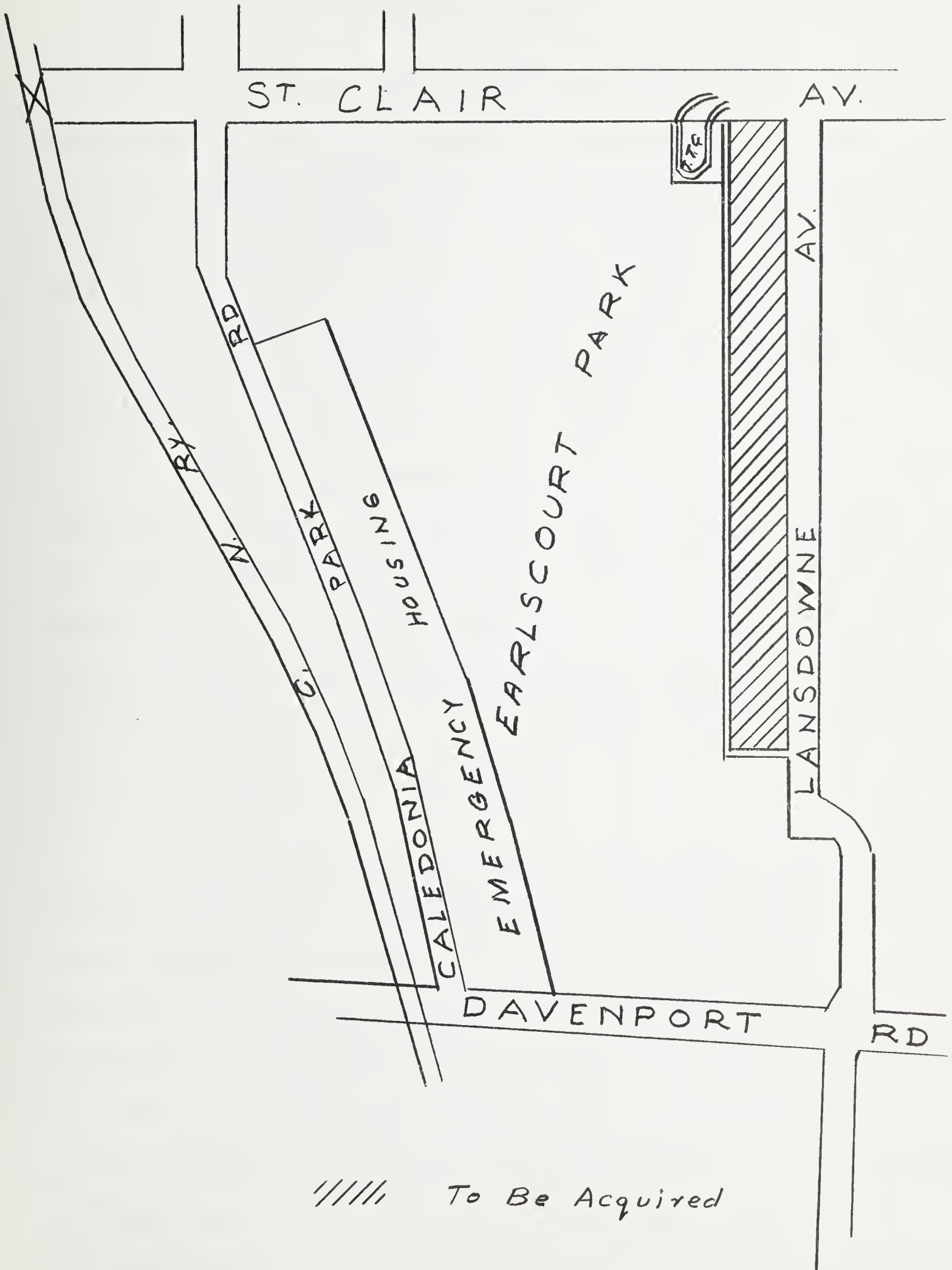
Actually most of the available acreage in this park, which is surrounded by dense population, has been taken up with athletic grounds. Field recreation facilities consist of a soccer field, with bleachers, enclosed baseball stadium, open baseball field, tennis courts, bowling green, running track, Boxing Club quarters, new large permanent artificial ice rink, wading pool and children's playground. There are two fieldhouses, together with the new Service Building for the artificial ice rink.

This area is sadly in need of a developed park area with tree planting and flower beds, which can be used for picnickers and for a sitting-out place. This can and should be accomplished after the removal of temporary housing units by developing the western and southern frontages. The area of the park should also be increased

EARLSCOURT PARK (continued)

by progressively acquiring those properties on the Lansdowne Avenue and St. Clair Avenue frontages, together with property at present owned and used by the Toronto Transit Commission for looping street cars and trolley buses, if and when it should become available.

If such acquisition and development were carried out, this district would be provided with one of the City's larger parks.



EGLINTON PARK

This park comprises 22.140 acres and is bounded on the south by Eglinton Avenue, on the east by the rear of private properties on Edith Drive, the only park property being an entrance off Edith Drive, which provides access to the Toronto Parking Authority parking lot. On the north the park is bounded by Roselawn Avenue, and on the west by the rear of privately-owned properties on Oriole Parkway.

This park contains playing fields, including two hardball diamonds, one softball diamond, four tennis courts, two playgrounds and two football fields, together with an artificial ice rink and a Community Centre Building. The south end of the park (Eglinton Avenue frontage) is lightly wooded and lends itself to horticultural development, which will be proceeded with next year.

The North Toronto Memorial Gardens, a two-storey Community Centre, is divided into two jurisdictions, for administrative purposes. The first floor is under the jurisdiction of the Department, and consists of lavatory accommodation, dressing and checking rooms for the artificial ice rink, children's play room, boiler room and janitor's living quarters. The second floor is under the jurisdiction of the North Toronto Community Corporation, who operate this portion of the building for community purposes, such as dancing, public meetings, social gatherings of various types.

EGLINTON PARK (continued)

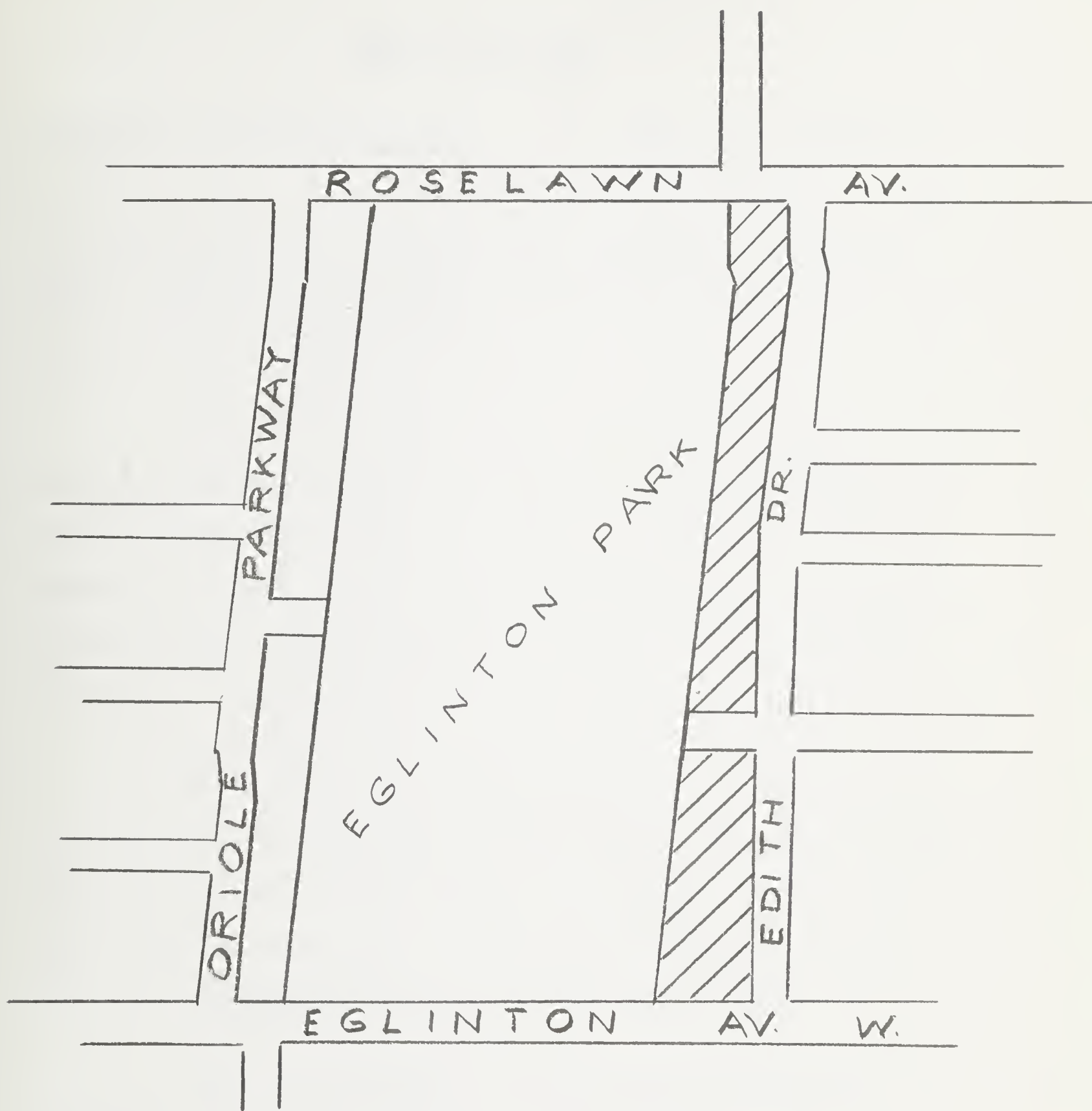
This dual arrangement has worked out satisfactorily.

Board of Control Report No. 11, adopted by the City Council on April 5th, 1954, provided the Toronto Parking Authority with land immediately adjoining the artificial ice rink for a parking lot. I am of the opinion that this was a mistake because a most valuable part of the park has been turned into a parking area for patrons of the Toronto Transit Commission's Subway without in any way enhancing the park itself. As a matter of fact, the lot is left unattended in the evenings and is practically unused by patrons of the park. In addition, the location of the parking lot greatly restricts the area in which we can clear the ice rink of ice and snow. A separate Section of this Report deals with locating a bathing pool in this park and with the necessity of removing the parking lot before proceeding with this project.

The existing park is greatly taken up by athletic fields, and little is left for community picnicking and shaded sitting-out spots, which are greatly needed in this section of the City. Much could be done to correct this situation if those private properties on the north side of Eglinton Avenue (between the existing east limit of the park and Edith Drive) and all private properties on the west side of Edith Drive (from Eglinton Avenue to Roselawn Avenue, and on the south side of Roselawn Avenue, from the east limit of the park to Edith

EGLINTON PARK (continued)

Drive) were progressively acquired for Parks Purposes.



TO BE ACQUIRED

EXHIBITION PARK

Proposed Exchange of Lands

This park comprises 205.1 acres, and the southern extremity forms part of a waterfront parkway which, eventually, should run from the Humber River to a point close to Bathurst Street.

As well as park lands, there are certain privately-owned properties between the existing western limit of Exhibition Park and Dowling Avenue and between Lakeshore Boulevard and the Canadian National Railways right-of-way. These properties should be progressively acquired to provide for the extension of the park westerly.

When the land has been acquired, the fence on the west limit of Exhibition Park may be extended farther west to a point in the vicinity of Jameson Avenue, and the area from that point to Dowling Avenue may be laid out as an ornamental entrance to the main park.

While no definite information is available regarding the possible acreage requirements of the Metropolitan Corporation if the projected Expressway is constructed through the north limit of the park, there appears to be little doubt that this will eventually take place. Presuming that this is so, the Metropolitan Corporation should be required to purchase and dedicate

Proposed Exchange of Lands (continued)

to the City, as Park Lands, no less an acreage than it will be necessary to release from Park Lands for their project. This can best be accomplished as set out above. If, however, the Expressway is not to be constructed through the park, then the City should acquire the lands.

Regrading Grand Plaza and
Extended use of Band Shell

The Band Shell is located
on the southerly limit

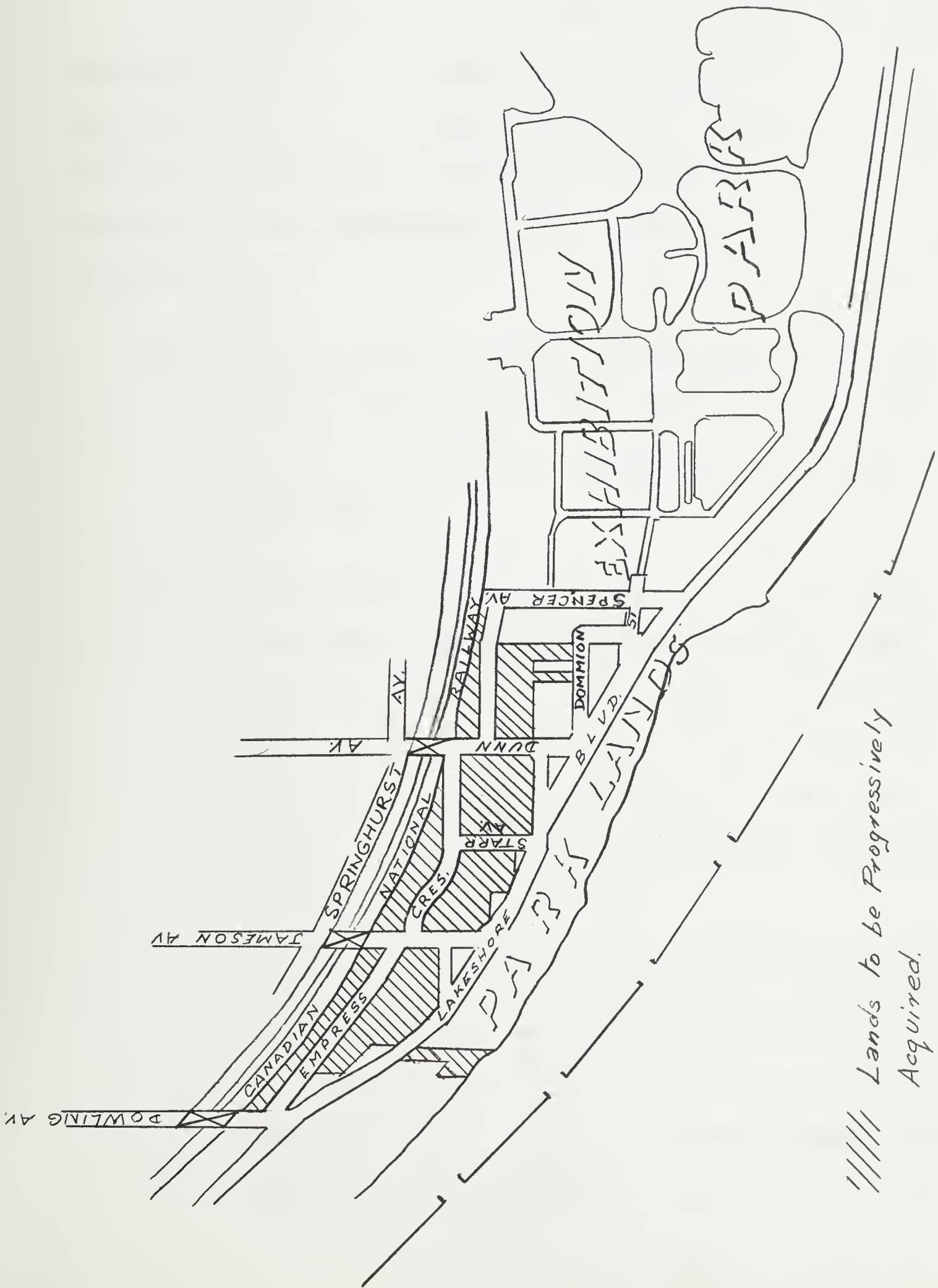
of the Grand Plaza and is used generally for only two weeks in the year, when the Canadian National Exhibition is in progress. There are, in my opinion, two main factors which contribute to this undesirable state of affairs. First, the fact that the front of the Band Shell is open and must be boarded up when not in use (to protect it from damage by the elements or from prowlers, etc.) and the boards must be removed when it is desired to use the Shell, at a cost of \$425.00; and, secondly, because the area in front and north of the Band Shell has never been graded to provide a proper view of the stage and maximum audition for the greatest number of people.

Parking facilities are almost unlimited, and the Band Shell is in an ideal location to provide a Summer long outdoor theatre for all types of music and other activities requiring the use of modern stage facilities. The only two things which are lacking are those set out above and, in my

Regrading Grand Plaza and Extended
Use of Band Shell (continued)

opinion, both may be corrected speedily and at reasonable cost, as follows:-

1. Provision of electrically operated disappearing doors on the front of the Band Shell, to provide immediate access when required.
2. Regrading of the area between the front of the Band Shell and a point approximately twenty feet south of the south curb of the roadway in front of the Horticultural Building, as shown on attached sketch, and the provision of a concrete "orchestra pit" in front of the stage. The regrading would provide a low rock garden on its northern slope, which would face and complement the present Horticultural Building and the formal garden layouts which are planted there each year.



FRED HAMILTON PLAYGROUND

At the present time there are, in effect, three pieces of property involved in this Playground area and, in addition, there is a further section of land nearby which should be considered in connection with any proposals for changes to this Playground. These properties are as follows:-

- (a) - The northerly section between Roxton Road and Shaw Street, presently leased to the National Soccer League for approximately six months in the year.
- (b) - The southerly section, bounded on the south by the rear of lots on Harrison Street, on the east by the rear of lots on Shaw Street, on the north by the south boundary of site leased to the National Soccer League, and on the west by Roxton Road, is used as a Children's Playground and has a wading pool.
- (c) - The westerly section, bounded on the south by Harrison Street, on the east by Roxton Road, on the north by the flankages of houses on Roxton Road and Ossington Avenue, and on the west by Ossington Avenue, is used as an athletic field.

FRED HAMILTON PLAYGROUND (continued)

These three sections are integral parts of the Fred Hamilton Playground.

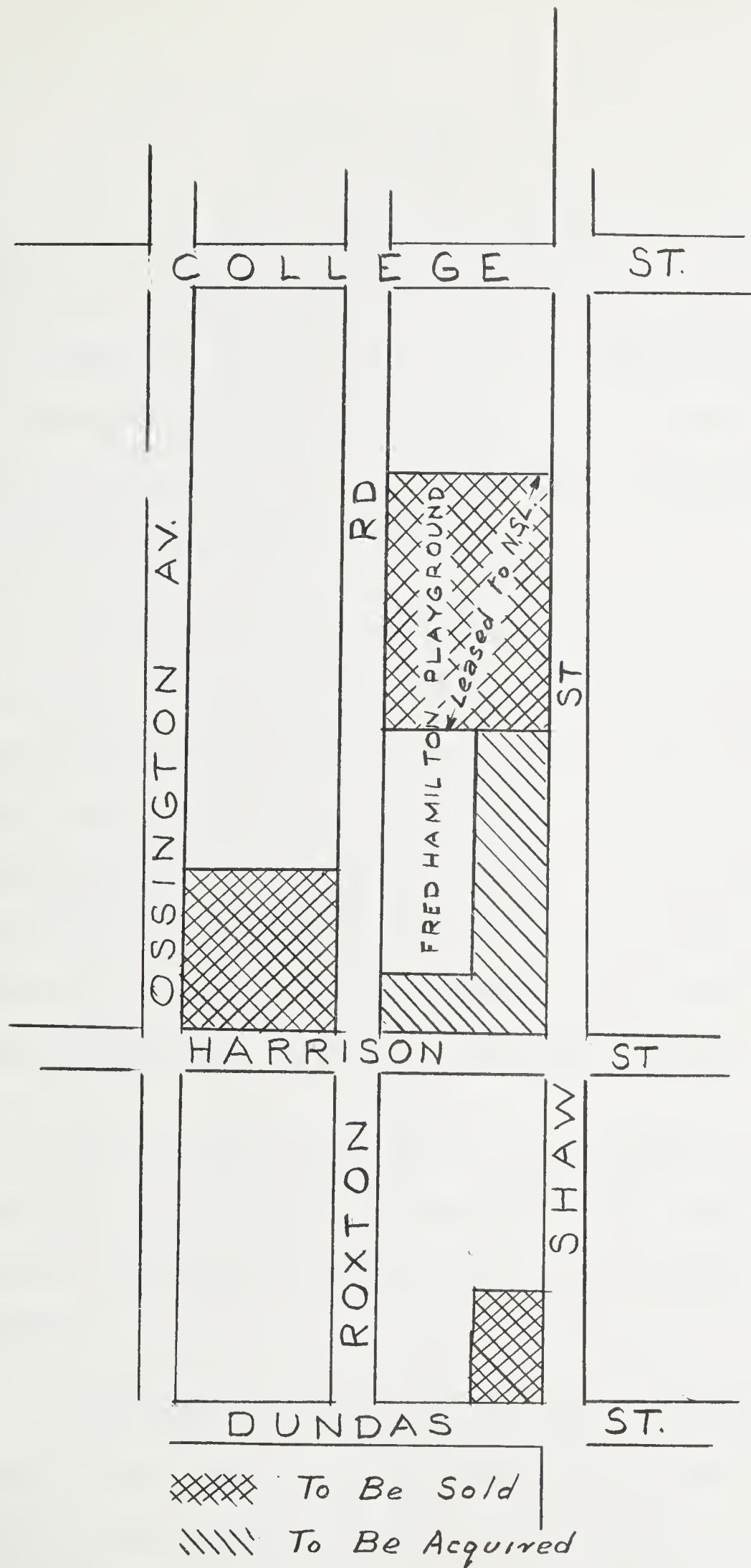
- (d) - A section of land bounded on the south by Dundas Street, on the east by Shaw Street, on the north by the flankages of houses on Shaw Street and Roxton Road, and on the west by the flankages of property on Dundas Street, was formerly park property, used for general Parks purposes, but during the last War it was stopped up and closed as a public park in order to use it for temporary housing purposes. Under a recent order of the Administration, this property is to be vacated by temporary housing units not later than June 30th, 1956, at which time it is presumed it will revert to park lands.

The present distribution of lands in sections (a), (b), (c) and (d) certainly does not lend itself to a proper playground layout, in view of the particularly bad set-up existing with areas (b) and (c) being divided by a well trafficked street.

In the Section of this Report dealing with Enclosed Stadia, I suggest that Section (a) be offered for sale to the National Soccer League. In addition to this, I am of the opinion that the City should progressively acquire those

FRED HAMILTON PLAYGROUND (continued)

private lands necessary to provide a playground bounded on the south by Harrison Street, on the west by Shaw Street, on the north by the south boundary of the National Soccer League leasehold, and on the west by Roxton Road, and that they should sell existing properties shown in Sections (c) and (d).



GRANGE PARK

Grange Park consists of 6.86 acres, bounded on the south by Grange Avenue, on the east by the rear of private property on the west side of McCaul Street, on the north by Dundas Street, and on the west by Beverley Street. The park is the site of the Art Gallery of Toronto and also of the Ontario College of Art.

This park area should be enlarged to provide a medium size downtown park, and the whole setting for the Art Gallery would be greatly improved if the City were to acquire, progressively, all privately owned properties in the area bounded by Stephanie Street on the south, McCaul Street on the east, Dundas Street on the north, and Beverley Street on the west, and close Grange Road and that portion of John Street from Stephanie Street to Grange Road.

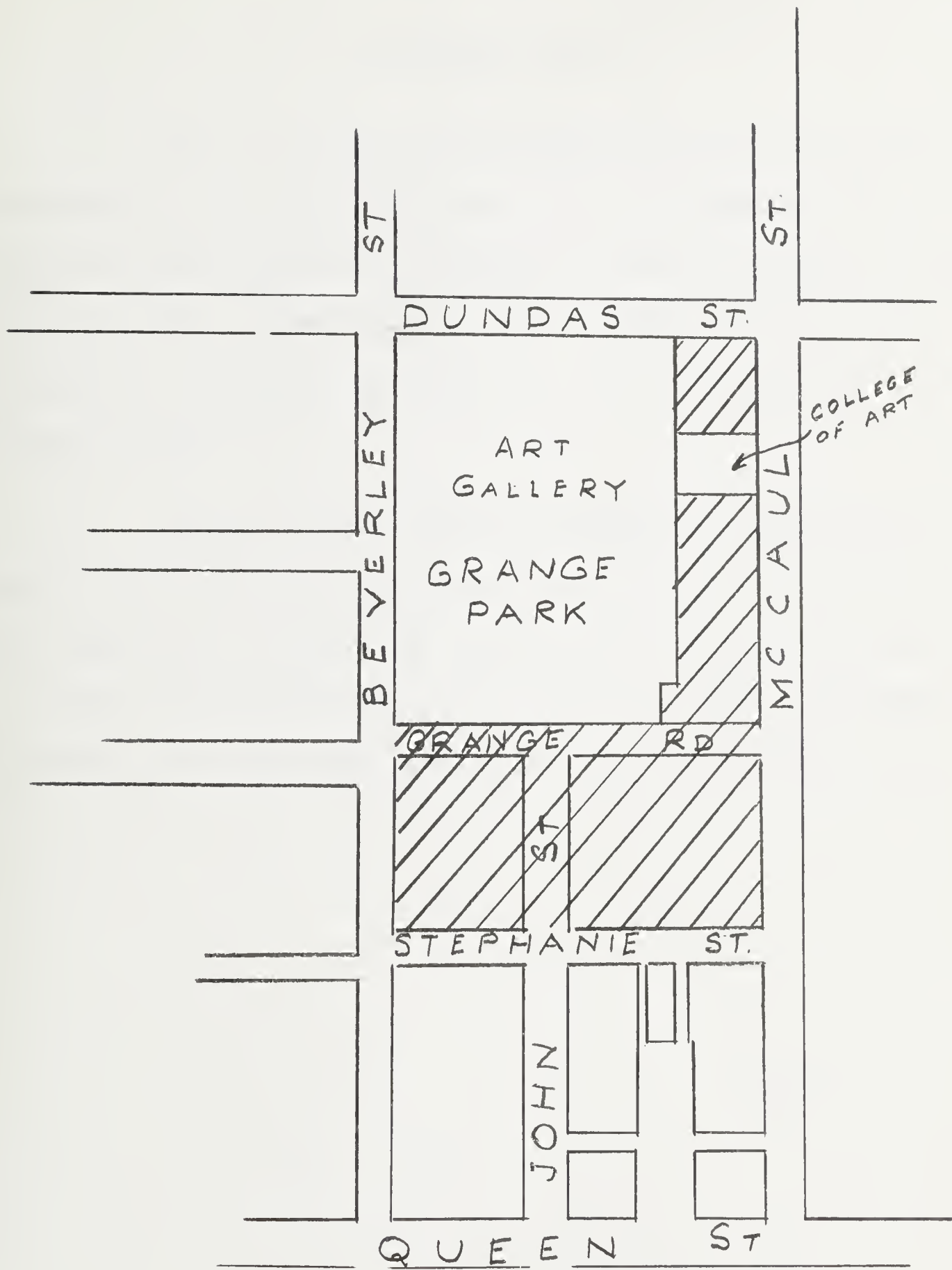
The present park area to the south of the Art Gallery is in a dilapidated condition and requires to be completely overhauled, despite which it enjoys heavy patronage.

The area surrounding this park is densely populated and use of the area is, in all probability, the heaviest per acre in the City. There is no reason to believe that this condition will change in the near future. In addition

GRANGE PARK (continued)

to the community requirement, the location of this park is such that if it were enlarged and brought up to a high standard, it would be greatly used at the noon hours by many persons in the downtown area.

Recommendation for a Recreation Centre and Wading Pool is contained in other Sections of this Report dealing with these matters.

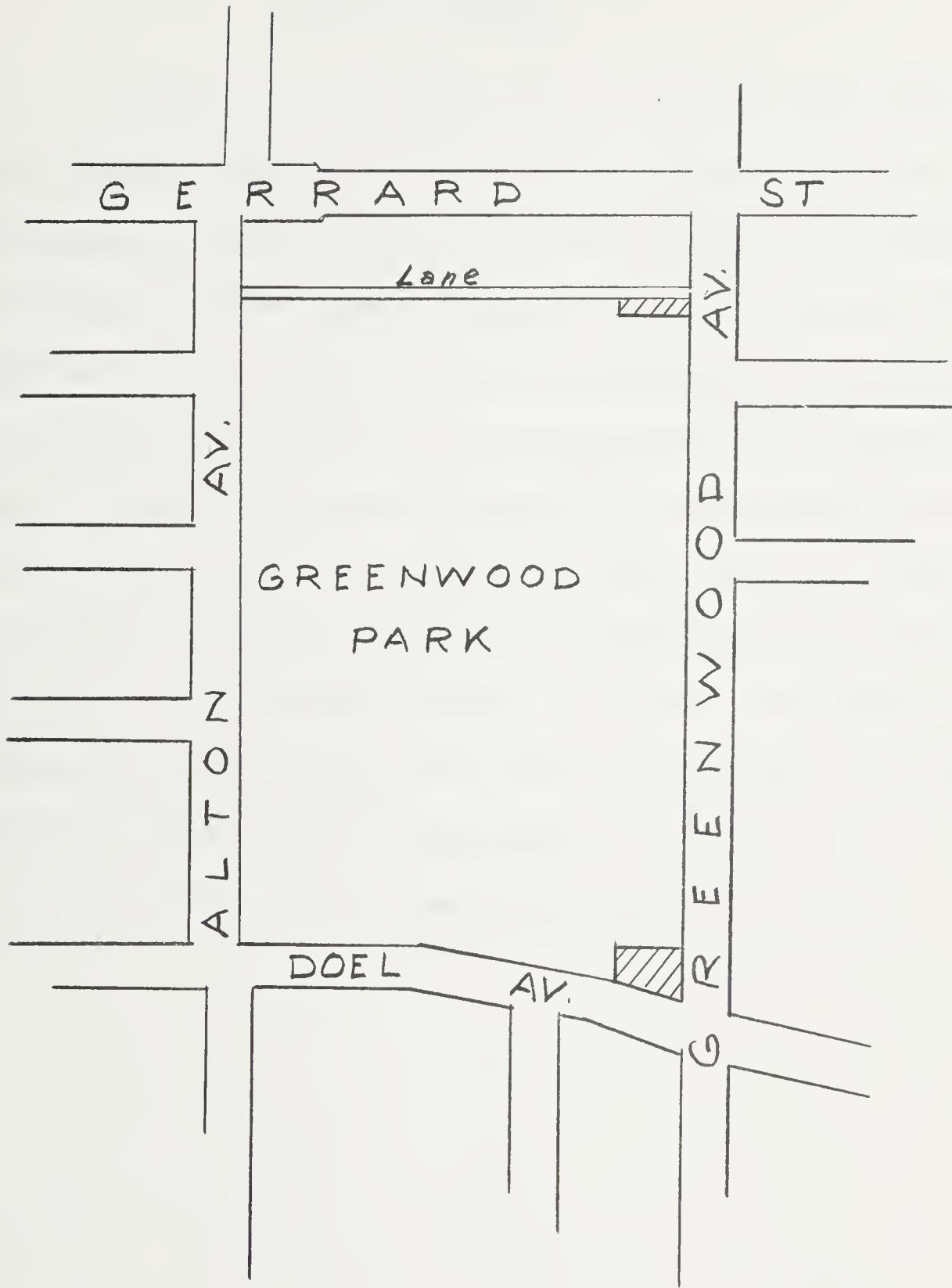


////// TO BE ACQUIRED

GREENWOOD PARK

This park has an acreage of 15.708 acres and is bounded by Doel Avenue on the south, by part of Greenwood Avenue on the east, by the rear of lots on Gerrard Street on the north, and by part of Alton Avenue on the west. It contains a large athletic field, an artificial ice rink and tennis courts.

There are two privately-owned houses in the south-east corner of this park and two at the north-east corner of the park, all fronting on Greenwood Avenue. These should be acquired progressively, in order that the Department may properly landscape the south-east frontage of the park.



////// To Be Acquired

HARBOUR SQUARE

Under a recent exchange of assets with the Toronto Harbour Commissioners the City is to receive certain lands lying between Queen's Quay and Fleet Street and between York Street and Bay Street for use as parks lands. The boundaries of this land are not yet clearly defined nor has the exchange been finally consummated and as a result I am not in a position to make comment or recommendation at this time. I would like to suggest however, that if, the lands are assumed for Parks purposes consideration be given to naming the Park "Bayside Park". This was the name of the old original waterfront park which disappeared when the waterfront viaduct was constructed and water lots to the south were filled in to create more harbour lands.

HIGH PARK

High Park differs from other parks in the City by reason of its size and the diversity of attractions it offers. It should be looked upon not only as a park for all our citizens, but as a potential, outstanding point of interest for visitors. Because of its importance, I believe that it is well to include a few words regarding its origin. The park is bounded on the south by the new extension of Queen Street West, on the east by Parkside Drive, on the north by Bloor Street, and on the west by the west boundary of Grenadier Pond. Within the past year 11.87 acres of land and water were sold to the Metropolitan Corporation for the extension of Queen Street West to the Humber River. The acreage following the sale is 353.20 acres of land and 43.6 acres of water, or a total of 396.80 acres.

The original park dedication came from the Howard "Gift Deed" which, in the year 1873, agreed to deed the central portion of the park from the waterfront to Bloor Street to the City of Toronto, 165 acres upon the death of himself and his wife, in exchange for certain privileges including an annuity for the donor, Mr. John George Howard, and his wife, Jemima Frances, together with three main provisions; first, that both Mr. Howard and his wife would be buried in High Park, and that the City would maintain the site of their burial for all time. Secondly, that the

HIGH PARK (continued)

name of the park should always remain as "High Park"; and thirdly, that the ground deeded would be used as a park for the use, benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of the City of Toronto forever.

The second section of the park, having as its boundaries the waterfront on the south, Parkside Drive on the east, Bloor Street on the north, and the Howard Gift Deed property on the west, was purchased by the City from the Estate of George Percival Ridout in the year 1876.

The third and last section of the park, all in the Village of Swansea, having as its boundaries the waterfront on the south, the Howard Gift Deed property on the east, Bloor Street on the north, and the west limit of Grenadier Pond on the west, was purchased from the Estate of Wilma Chapman in the year 1930. An interesting point in regard to this last purchase was that very few citizens were aware of the fact that prior to 1930 the City owned little of Grenadier Pond, although they had been using it as part of the park for many years.

Unfortunately this park, which is unequalled anywhere in its potential, has not been as jealously guarded in the past as it should have been. In 1914 the Department of Works was given approximately 0.7 acres immediately south of Bloor Street and west of Parkside

HIGH PARK (continued)

Drive, in which to construct a storm overflow for the Park-side Drive Storm Sewer. This not only reduced the usable acreage of the park, but also spoiled the appearance of the surrounding area. In 1947 the Toronto Transportation Commission was granted approximately one-half an acre at the Bloor Street entrance to construct a loop, which permitted them to turn back cars without proceeding through to Jane Street. While the Toronto Transit Commission do maintain this loop in a satisfactory condition, it does not alter the fact that the acreage was lost for park use and, in addition, a situation was created with tracks and poles, which mitigates against the beautification of this most important entrance to the park.

This year 11.87 acres at the south end of the park were sold to the Metropolitan Corporation for the extension of Queen Street West, and this acreage is also lost for all time.

Recently there have been indications that the proposed Bloor Street West Expressway may be routed through the whole north end of the park, including the upper stretches of Grenadier Pond. If this were ever permitted to take place, the park would not only be reduced tremendously in acreage, but the imposing Bloor Street frontage would be mutilated and, most important of all, the springs which feed Grenadier Pond at the north end, and maintain it as

HIGH PARK (continued)

an inland fresh water lake, would be stopped up and probably nothing but a stagnant body of water would remain.

I repeat here what I said in the General Section of this Report, that there seems to be a feeling that the use of park properties for publicly-owned utility construction is a cheap way of constructing the utility, but what is forgotten is that it is a sure way of ruining the Parks System. The transportation planners should be advised immediately that no part of High Park is available and that they must plan their route elsewhere. Money will purchase an alternative route, but no amount of money will restore the acreage, the appearance and the fresh water lake which would be lost.

High Park is in a transitory stage at the present time, due to the fact that Metropolitan Contractors are working on the whole southern section in the construction of Queen Street, and this Department is proceeding with three main projects, i.e., grading the site of the Department's new Central Greenhouses; improving and extending the animal compounds and surrounding areas in the zoological gardens; and constructing the new Hillside Gardens. Other lesser works are under way, such as filling and grading for parking areas, completion of the new children's playground which was prepared this year, and general sodding and grading. Despite the unsettled state caused by these activities, the general public have shown their continued interest at all times, but

HIGH PARK (continued)

more especially on week-ends, when the park is thronged with people.

Completion of the Hillside Gardens is expected within two years' time. The contract for the construction of the Greenhouses will be awarded this Autumn, and it is hoped to have them in use late next year.

This park must always be Toronto's main area for both large picnics and also for family-type picnics and, in our planning, it is necessary that this be kept in mind. We should, therefore, endeavour to provide at this location those things which will provide a full day's outing for those who wish to remain in the City. Many of these facilities are there now and are used extensively, such as:-

1. Miles of nature trails through heavily-wooded areas, which are and will be maintained in their natural state.
2. Shaded picnic areas with a limited number of picnic tables. This year's appropriations provided sufficient funds to greatly supplement our present supply of tables. These are on order, and delivery is expected within a few weeks' time. When they are received the situation will be greatly improved, not only for this park, but for other parks in the City.
3. A supervised Children's Playground in operation seven days a week during Summer months.
4. Specimens of animals and wild-fowl in the zoological gardens, which are being expanded.
5. Boating in Grenadier Pond, where skiffs may be rented by the hour from a private concessionaire.

HIGH PARK (continued)

6. Fishing for small fish from the shore, and from boats on Grenadier Pond.
7. A new free outdoor casting bank, constructed this year on the shore of Grenadier Pond and used both by private citizens and Casting Clubs.
8. Colborne House, the original home of the Howard family, with its many antiques and collection of old Toronto newspapers.
9. The new Hillside Garden and the recently dedicated Rose Garden. Music from records, over a public address system, is provided at this point every afternoon during Summer months.
10. Playing fields for baseball, tennis, soccer, football, rugger, cricket, lawn bowling, etc.
11. Artificial Ice Rink.
12. Existing inadequate food dispensing concessions.
13. Existing inadequate washroom accommodation.
14. Extensive off road free parking space.

The items listed appear to be impressive, but they are not sufficient and fall short of completing this park's great potential. I am of the opinion that, in addition to minor improvements such as improving the soil and grass in the park, the following major improvements should be effected:-

1. General improvement of the food dispensing concessions, as set out in the Section of this Report dealing with Concessions generally.
2. Construction of a modern Restaurant, with outside eating terrace, as detailed in Section of this Report dealing with Concessions generally.
3. Construction of Picnic Shelters, as set out in the Section of this Report dealing with Picnic Shelters.

HIGH PARK (continued)

4. Continuation of the construction of the Hillside Gardens.
5. Construction of additional washrooms.
6. Construction of a wading pool in the new Children's Playground, as set out in the Section of this Report dealing with Wading Pools.
7. Construction of a Bathing Pool, as set out in the Section of this Report dealing with Wading, Bathing and Swimming Pools.
8. Construction of a minor band shell, to be used for free entertainment only. At the present time the City pay for three or four band concerts in this park each summer, and while these are well attended, the people are unable to hear them or appreciate them fully. In addition, there are many private groups who are anxious to provide their own music if only there were a proper place in which to play and for an audience to listen. This is particularly true in the case of the Ethnic groups, who desire, also, to stage their native dances in costume.

While many appreciative comments have been received regarding the band concerts which are supplied, invariably we are asked why weekly, or even nightly concerts cannot be held during the summer months. It has often been said that our people do not seem to have the same appreciation for outdoor music as the people in Europe. If this is so, perhaps it is because we have never given them either suitable facilities or programmes. The construction of such a band shell is a project which might very well appeal to some citizen, group of citizens, or Corporation who is desirous of making a contribution to the cultural life of this City.

9. The park is in need of considerable reforestation, and I have dealt with this under a separate Section devoted to Forestry.

KEW GARDENS AND EASTERN BEACHES

The area covered by this Section is from the Eastern Gap to the East City Limit at Nursewood Road, and I deal with it from west to east.

1. From the Eastern Gap to a point 400 or 500 feet east of Cherry Street, there is an excellent bathing beach which is not affected to any extent by erosion from wave action. The area north of the actual beach is covered by underbrush and some trees; from the Eastern Gap to Cherry Street itself this area is fairly deep. From Cherry Street easterly to the end of the beach, developed industrial property is immediately north of the beach. This area is generally known as CHERRY BEACH, and the Department maintains a bathing station at the foot of Cherry Street. The Toronto Harbour Commissioners maintain a Life Saving service in this area.
2. From the east limit of CHERRY BEACH to the Sewage Treatment Plant property east of Leslie Street is an area formerly known as SIMCOE BEACH. Industrial development is immediately north of the waterfront in most sections of this area. For some years dumping has been carried out along the

KEW GARDENS AND EASTERN BEACHES (continued)

2. (continued)

waterfront and is continuing at this time, with the result that there is no beach or suitable bathing place in the area.

3. The Sewage Treatment Plant occupies the area from a point east of Leslie Street to Coatsworth's Cut.

4. From the east limit of Coatsworth's Cut to Woodbine Avenue there is an excellent bathing beach which is not adversely affected by high water or wave action, and which was cleared this year and is now being extensively used by the public. The Department operates a public lavatory building in this area, and the Toronto Harbour Commissioners maintain a Life Saving service. The area north of the actual beach is of varying depth, running north to the new Keating Street, being deepest at Coatsworth's Cut, or west end, and much shallower at Woodbine Avenue, or the east end. Part of this area is covered with underbrush and some trees.

5. From Woodbine Avenue to the East City Limit at Nursewood Road, and adjoining the R. C. Harris Water Works Plant, is a developed area with a shallow bathing beach for a short distance east of Woodbine Avenue. A boardwalk is in existence from Woodbine

KEW GARDENS AND EASTERN BEACHES (continued)

5. (continued)

Avenue to Balsam Avenue, but in times of high lake level it is constantly being undermined and washed out by wave action. The area immediately north of the boardwalk is all well developed park land, and the Department operates many facilities, including sports fields, tennis courts, lawn bowling, a bathing station, and a portable artificial ice rink, etc.

6. The area from the rear of the properties on Waverley Road to the west limit of Lee Avenue extends north to Queen Street and is known as KEW GARDENS and constitutes a real beauty spot.

Ownership and Rights

Sections 1, 2 and 4 are owned by the Toronto Harbour Commissioners, and Section 3 by the Metropolitan Corporation. In Sections 1 and 2 the City has no rights whatsoever, and the Toronto Harbour Commissioners have advised that they are not prepared to consider any change in this situation because of the possible necessity of using the area following the development of the St. Lawrence Seaway Project. In Section 4 the City, by agreement entered into with the Toronto Harbour Commissioners on August 1st, 1946, has full rights to use the area for Parks and Recreational purposes, and the Toronto Harbour Commissioners cannot sell, lease or

Ownership and Rights (continued)

convey the lands for any purpose without the written consent of the City. Sections 5 and 6 are both dedicated park lands, over which the City has full jurisdiction.

Section 1. (Cherry Beach)

In view of the ownership by the Toronto Harbour Commissioners and the possibility of future use by them, no development should be undertaken but, as long as the beach area remains available, it should be maintained, together with the bathing station and Life Saving services.

Section 2. (Simcoe Beach)

For the same reason as cited in Section 1, and because this area is totally unsuitable for bathing, no development should be undertaken in this area.

Section 3. (Woodbine Beach)

The area north of the actual beach to the new Keating Street should be fully developed as a park picnic area, with the inclusion of a supervised children's playground for the summer months, by filling, grading, sodding and planting of trees and flower gardens.

An addition should be constructed to the recently rehabilitated wash room building on the Beach to provide adequate dressing rooms, lockers and shower accommodation.

Section 4. (Kew Beach)

The present bathing station in this Section should be re-designed to provide for modern bathing station facilities in the Summer and artificial ice skating facilities, including the housing of refrigeration equipment, in the Winter. This matter is fully dealt with in the Section under Artificial Ice Rinks.

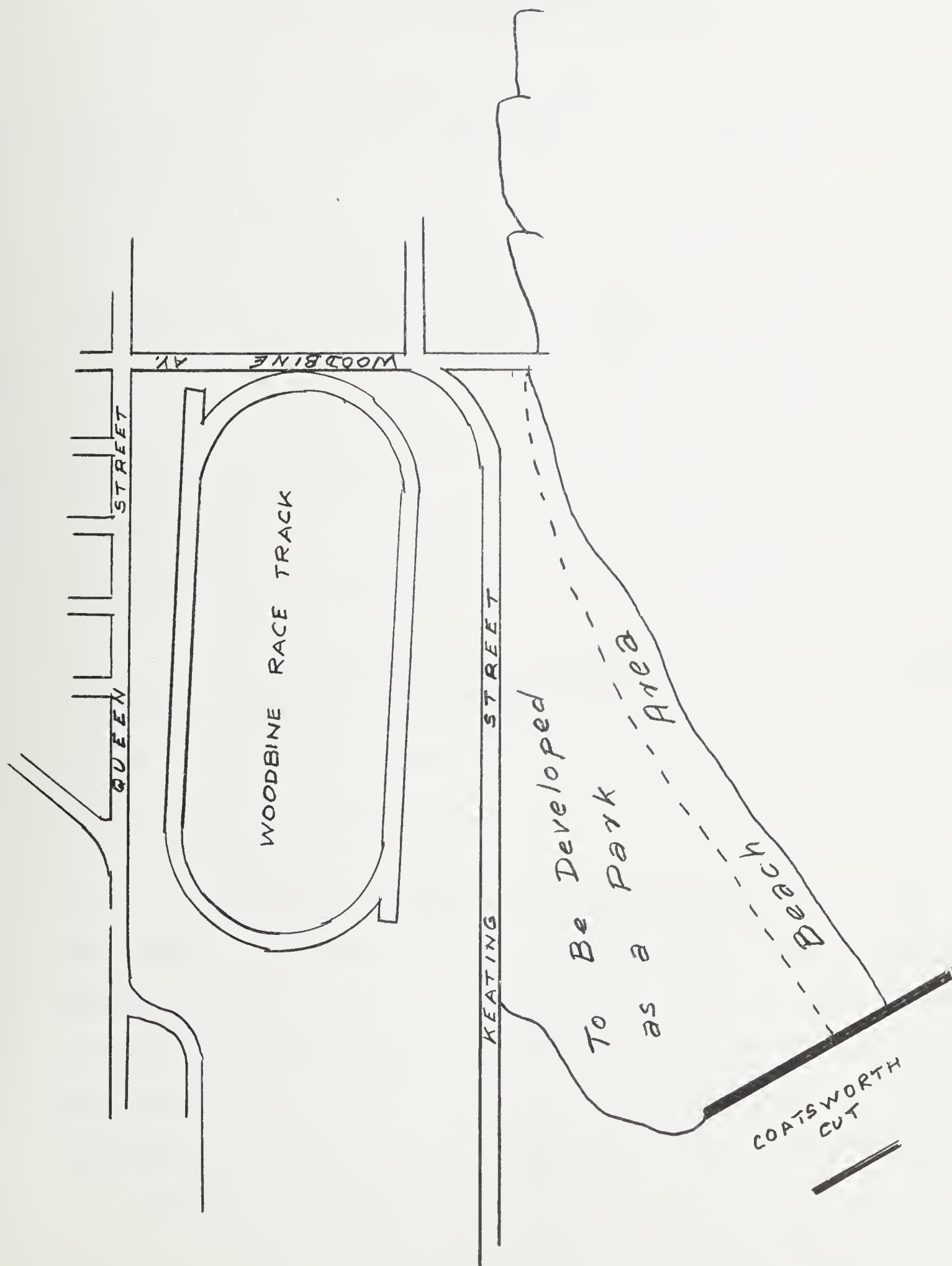
The main problem in this area, however, is to provide adequate shore protection to stop erosion and damage to the boardwalk and other park services. An amount of \$112,000.00 was provided in this year's Capital Expenditure Appropriations for the construction of further groynes in this area but, following conference with the Toronto Harbour Commissioners' Engineers, action has been deferred because there is doubt that such expenditure and construction would provide the required protection. The Toronto Harbour Commissioners, at my request, are preparing an estimate of the cost of constructing an alternative type of shore protection which would be adequate, and as soon as this is available it will be forwarded to your Committee, with a recommendation.

General

While I realize that the future of the present Ontario Jockey Club holdings at the Woodbine has not been discussed by the Administration, I point out that this area, or the southerly part of it,

General (continued)

could be incorporated as part of the new park area recommended for Section 3 (Woodbine Beach), provided suitable access may be had across the new Keating Street.



LAKESHORE BOULEVARD

DOWLING AVENUE TO HUMBER RIVER

The Department has control over and is responsible for lands on the South side of the Boulevard, as follows:-

1. From Dowling Avenue to the West limit of the Toronto Harbour Commissioners' Bathing Station (opposite the Howard Park Entrance to High Park) - the grass boulevard between the south curb and the "Boardwalk" and the "Boardwalk" itself, except at the two Free Bathing Stations where all lands between the south curb and the Lake are the responsibility of this Department.
2. From West limit of Toronto Harbour Commissioners' Bathing Station to a point 750 feet East of the Humber River - all lands between the South curb and the Lake, including the "Boardwalk".
3. The Centre Grass Boulevard between Lakeshore Boulevard and Lakeshore Road, running from Parkside Drive to the Humber River, is presently the joint responsibility of this Department and the Metropolitan Corporation, with maintenance being carried out by this Department and the Metropolitan Corporation reimbursing the City for fifty per cent. of the cost.

LAKESHORE BOULEVARD (continued)

4. This Department does not control nor have responsibility for any lands on the North side of Lakeshore Boulevard, from Dowling Avenue to Parkside Drive, nor on the North side of Lakeshore Road from Parkside Drive to the Humber River.

Section (2) above, that is, the portion south of the south curb to the Lake and running from the West limit of the Toronto Harbour Commissioners' Bathing Station to a point near the Humber River, is at present untidy and badly eroded by wave action in places opposite the circulation gaps in the sea wall. Erosion has progressed to a point where undermining of the "Boardwalk" can be foreseen, unless steps are taken to halt the disintegration of the shore-line. I am of the opinion that this area could and should be developed into a scenic parkway, which would greatly enhance the appearance of the Western entrance to the City and also provide new large park areas for the use of citizens and visitors, if the following projects were carried out:-

1. Filling of present low land and water areas to provide a park three hundred feet wide and approximately thirty-two hundred feet long over the whole area, with a new shore-line following the existing line of the "Boardwalk". The Grade of this new area to be at the level of the

LAKESHORE BOULEVARD (continued)

"Boardwalk" for the first one hundred feet south of the "Boardwalk" and then to have a gentle slope to the water's edge over the remaining two hundred feet. The entire fill for this area, with the exception of top dressing for sodding, can be obtained without cost to the City from large excavation works going on in the area. At the present time, and after consulting with the Toronto Harbour Commissioners, such fill is being placed in the area in order to halt erosion.

2. Sodding the filled area; providing flower beds for Spring Tulip Show and Summer Decorative Beds; planting trees to provide future shade for the area.
3. Provision of ample park benches, picnic tables and waste receptacles.
4. Provision for entry of motor cars and of free parking in the area, as follows:-
 - (a) - Entry for EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ONLY by crossing present boulevard and "Boardwalk" toward the West end of the total area.
 - (b) - Provision of a two-lane, hard-topped roadway leading into a central parking area which would be screened from the road by the close planting of trees or high growing Chinese Elm Hedge.
 - (c) - Exit for EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ONLY by crossing present

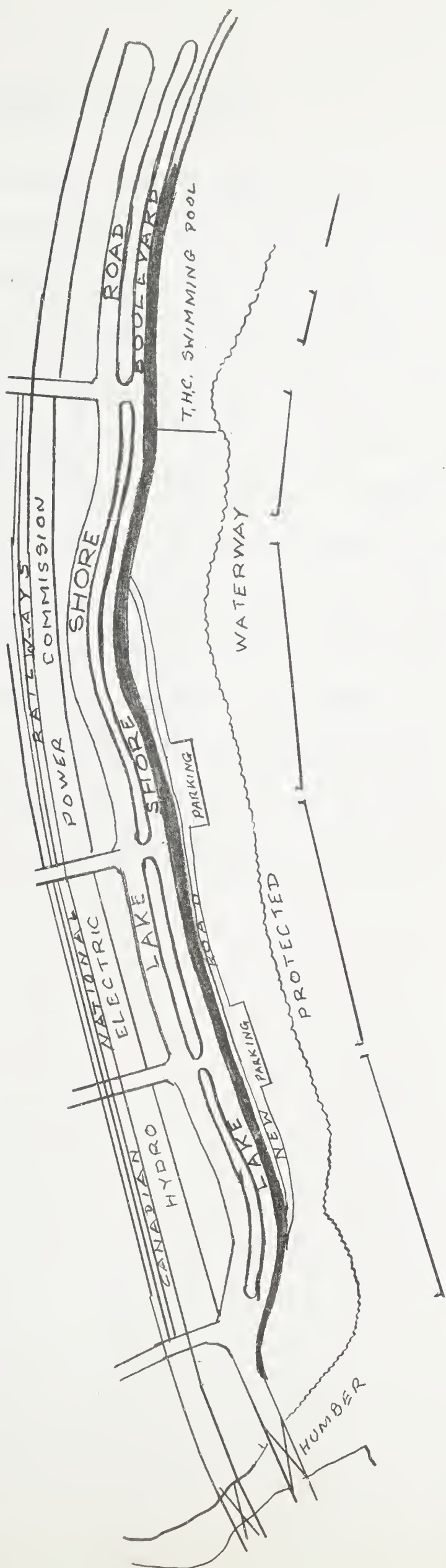
LAKESHORE BOULEVARD (continued)

boulevard and "Boardwalk" towards East end of total area.

5. Provision of necessary water services to ensure adequate water facilities for the park and to service drinking fountains which would be installed.
6. Total prohibition of "Amusement Concessions" in the area.
7. Regulations under the Parks By-law regarding limited speed of vehicles, prohibition of trucks, parking, etc., to prevail.
8. Construction of a Service Building to provide washroom facilities and storage for Parks Equipment required in the area, together with picnic shelters of the type recommended in another section of this report.
9. Arrangement with the Toronto Harbour Commissioners to provide some type of deflecting wall at existing openings in the sea wall to control future erosion.
10. Extending existing drainage conduit from Grenadier Pond to limit of new park (a distance of approximately 150 feet).
11. Provision of street lighting with underground service for roadway detailed in Section 4 (b).

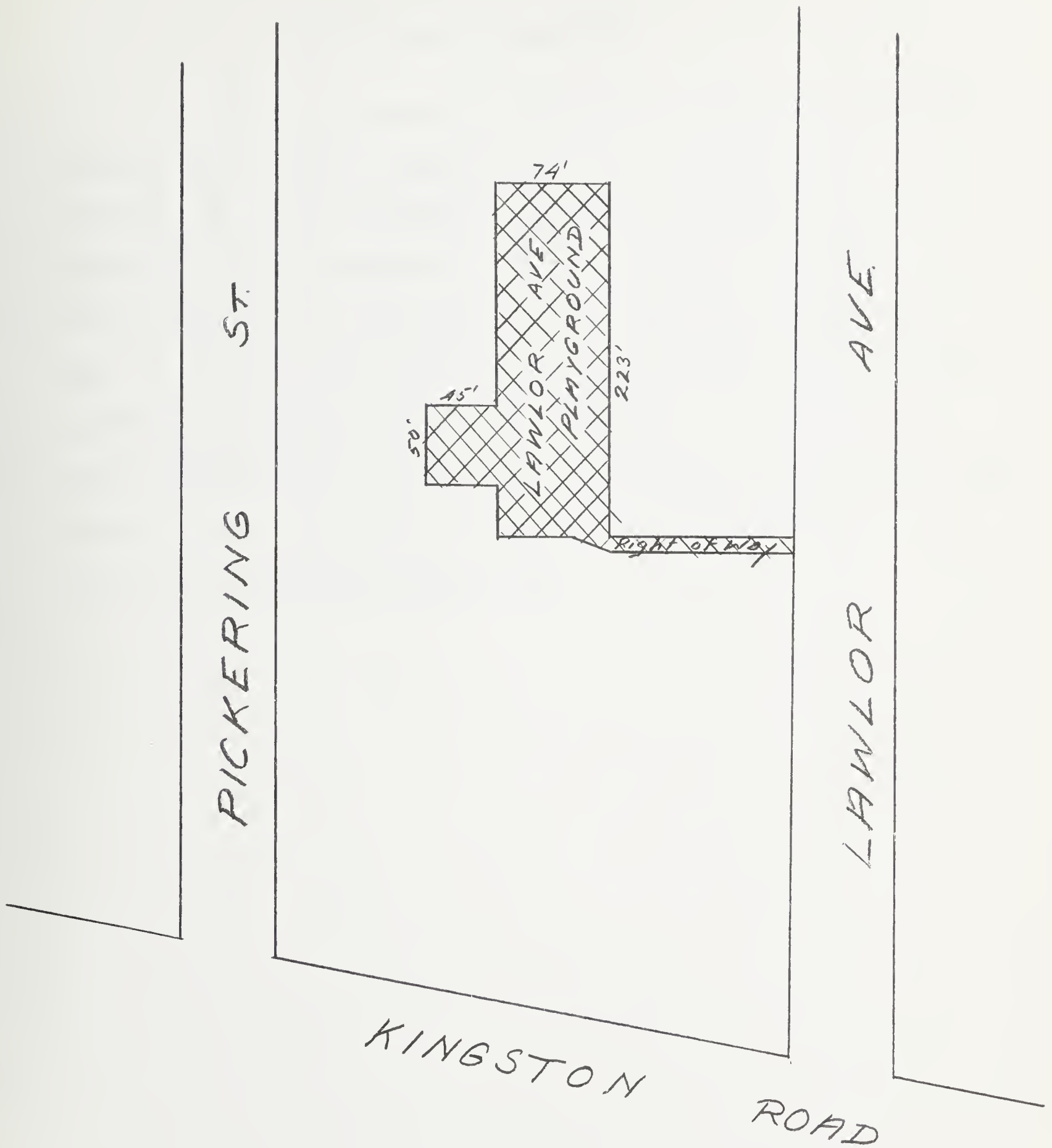
LAKESHORE BOULEVARD (continued)

While no decision has been made regarding removal of the Amusement Area at Sunnyside it appears that this may take place in the near future. If, as and when this takes place, the area concerned should be incorporated in the Waterfront Parkway on a basis similar to that set out above.



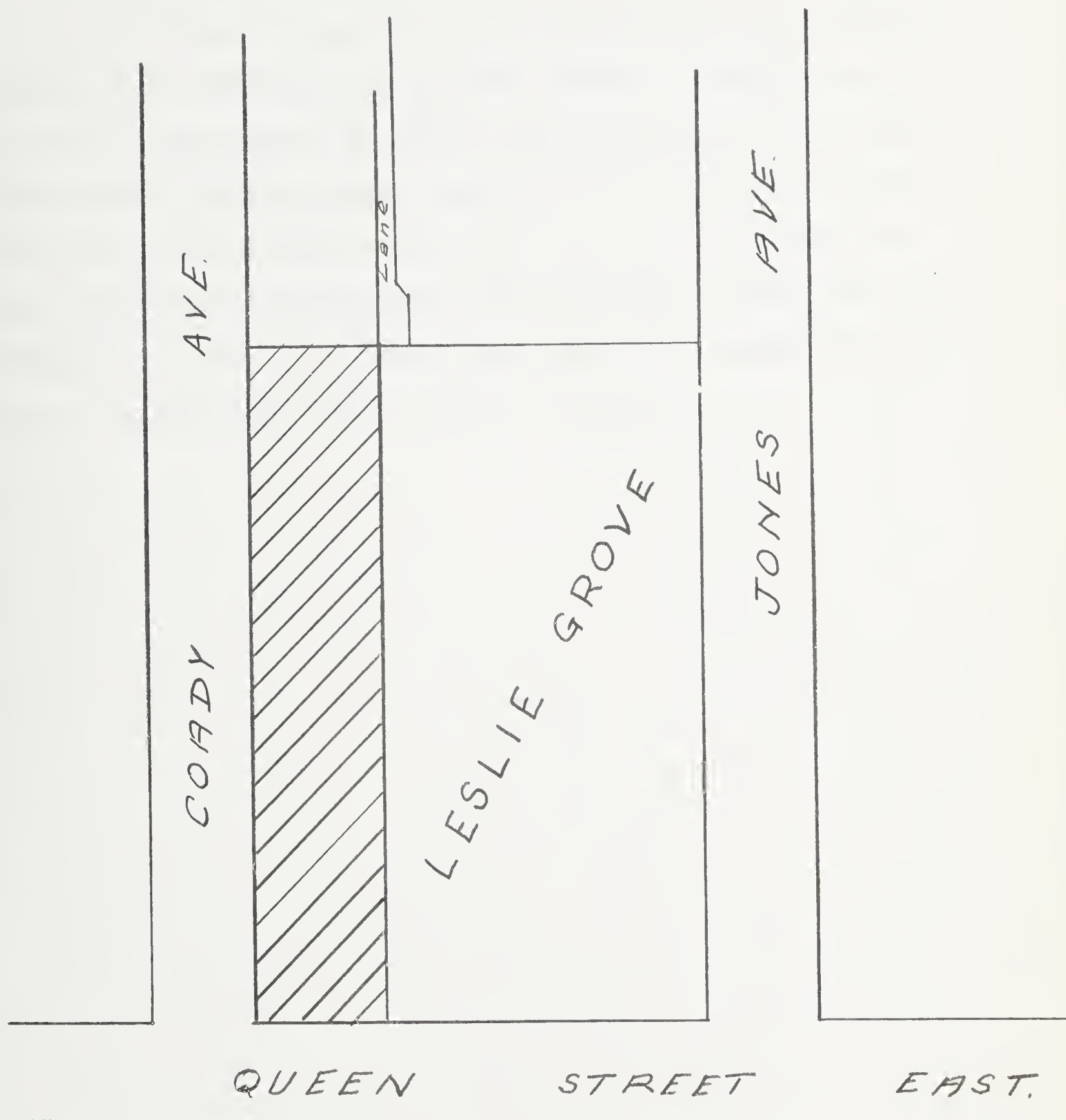
LAWLOR PLAYGROUND

This is a small undeveloped area in rear of lots on Kingston Road, Pickering Street and Lawlor Avenue, with an acreage of .420 of an acre. It was deeded to the City some years ago, with a covenant providing that the land should be used as a children's playground. Unfortunately, the only entrance to the property is by way of public lanes and the property itself and, being closely bounded by the rear of properties on all sides, is totally unsuitable for a playground or any other park activity. In addition, the Department operates a playground at the Adam Beck School, which is less than a block from this area. In view of these facts, I am of the opinion that an effort should be made to return the property to the donor or, in the alternative, to obtain permission from him to dispose of it.



LESLIE GROVE PLAYGROUND

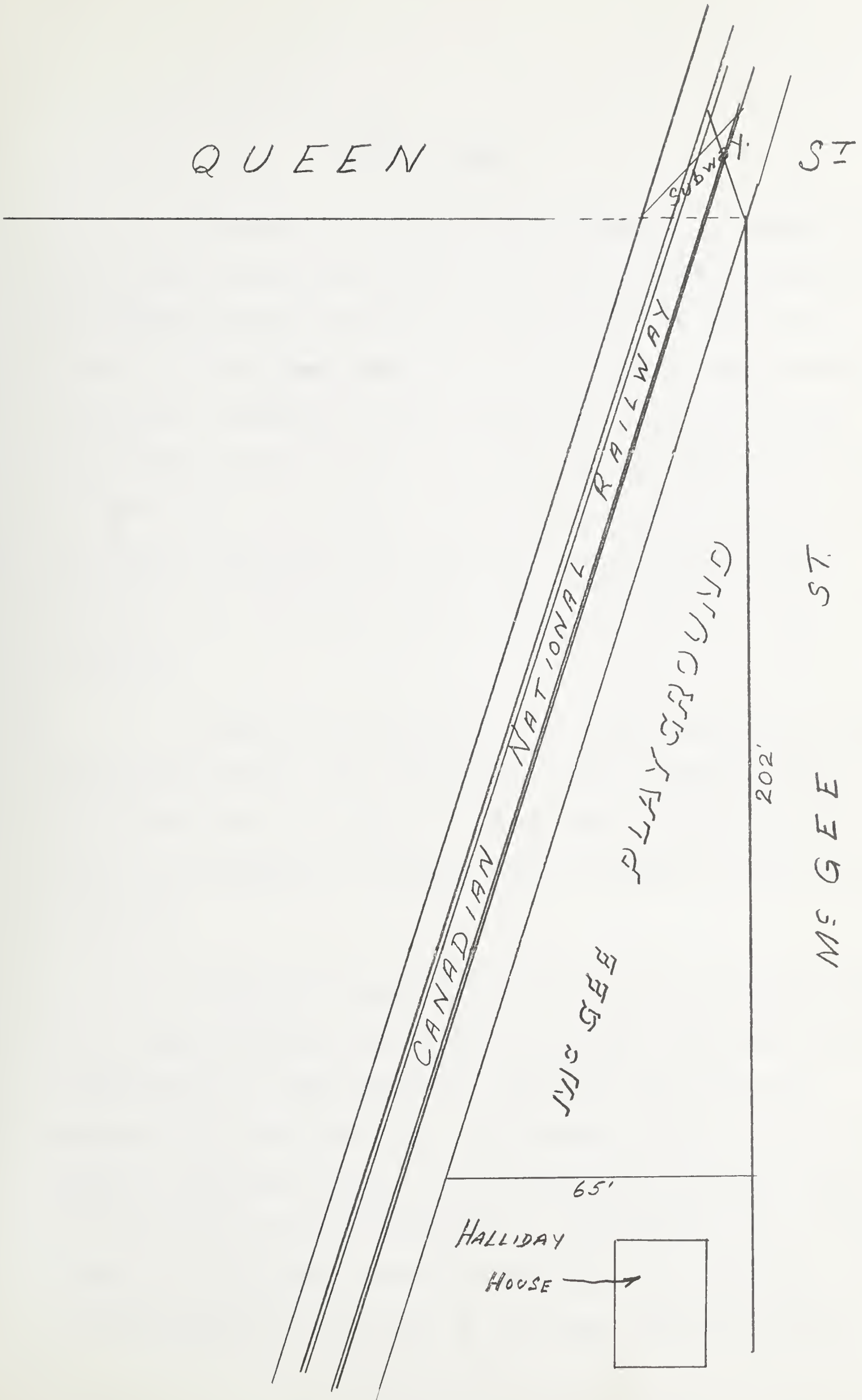
This playground is situated on the north side of Queen Street East at Jones Avenue and is 1.850 acres in extent. It is in a densely populated district and more land is urgently needed to provide adequate recreation facilities for the children. This could be accomplished and the present area improved by acquisition of those privately owned properties on the north side of Queen Street East, immediately to the west of the existing playground and those on the east side of Coady Avenue immediately to the west of the existing playground.



////// To Be Acquired.

MC GEE PLAYGROUND

McGee Playground is an area of only .148 acres immediately abutting the railway tracks. Actually it is a gore at the corner of McGee Street and Queen Street East. For several years a small playground was operated at this unsatisfactory location but with the opening of the Wood-green Centre the Department playground was closed down due to lack of use. This particular piece of property has no value as park land and it should be sold.



MONARCH PARK

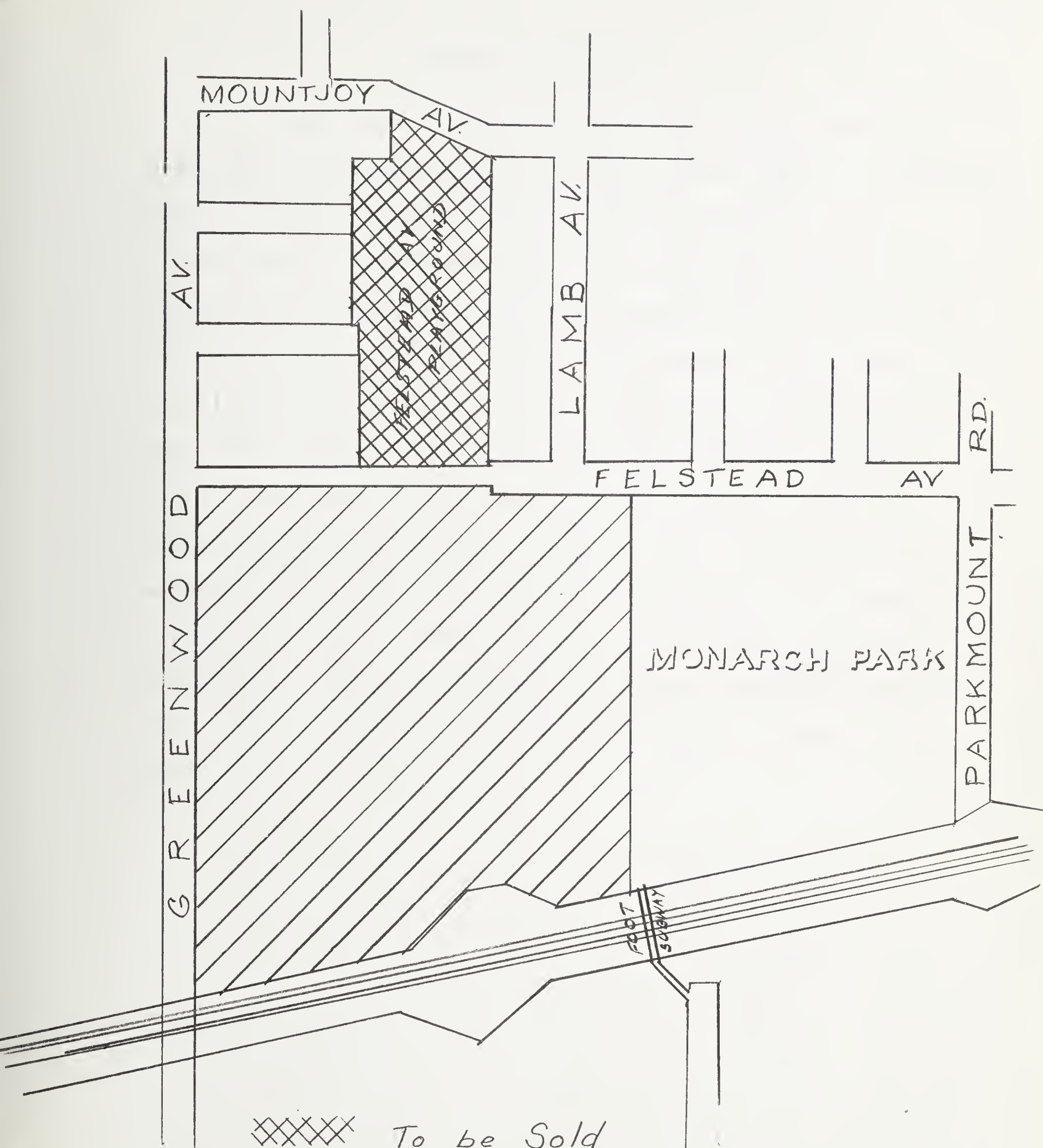
Monarch Park is located between the railway tracks and Hanson Street and Felstead Avenue, a short distance west of Coxwell Avenue, and has an acreage of 12.280 acres. This is a developed park with picnic areas, lawn bowling, children's playground and wading pool. It is the only reasonably large general park area in the north-east section of the City and lies in a heavily populated district. In my opinion this Section requires a large general park devoted to recreation, picnic areas, horticulture and forestry.

Felstead Playground is an undeveloped area lying across the street and immediately west of Monarch Park, and is 4.620 acres in extent. It does not and will not fit into any extension of Monarch Park, because of its size and location.

Situated immediately to the west of Monarch Park is a large property containing a clay pit and brick works. Acquisition of this property, together with any other portions of land fronting on Greenwood Avenue and the south side of Felstead Avenue, would provide an admirable area for filling and park development. In addition such action would, I understand, remove a smoke and air pollution problem which is the cause of continual complaint from

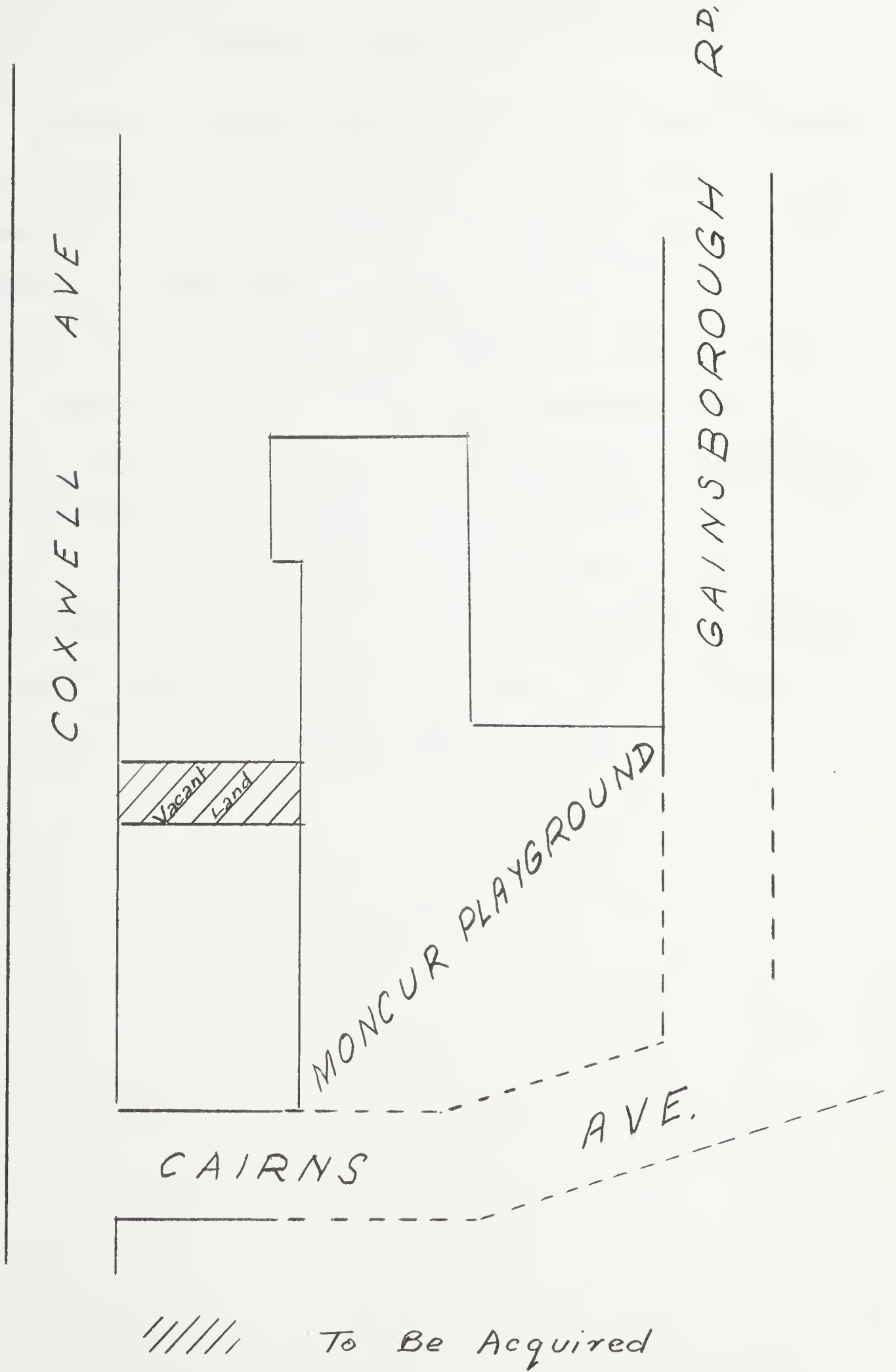
MONARCH PARK (continued)

citizens in this District. If this acquisition were consummated, the City should then dispose of the existing 4.620 acres of undeveloped land known as Felstead Playground.



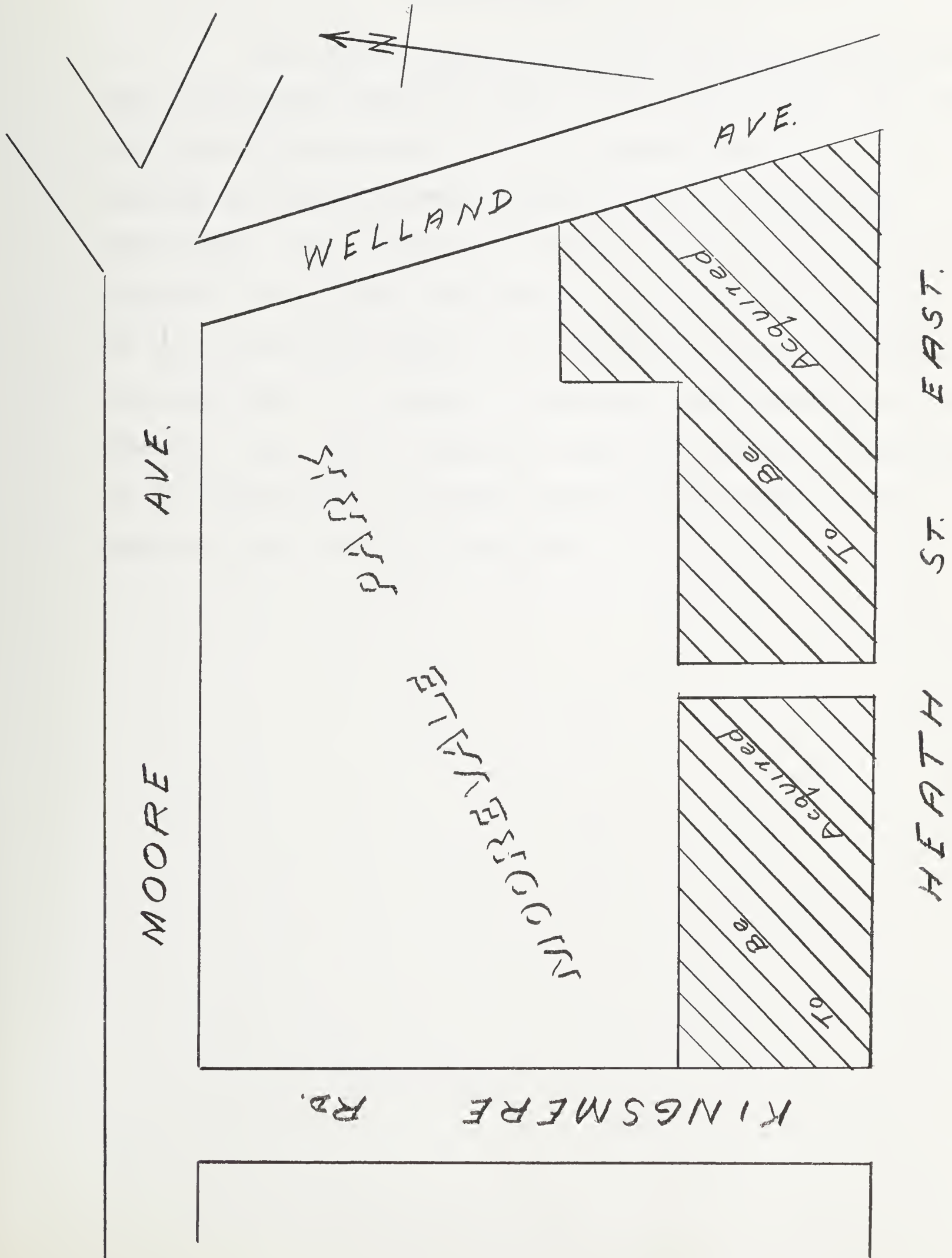
MONCUR PLAYGROUND

This is an undeveloped area of 1.500 acres, with frontages on Gainsborough Avenue and Cairns Avenue. Approximately one-half of the area was given to the City by a private donor, and the remainder was purchased by the City. As previously pointed out to your Committee, this area does not particularly lend itself to development but in view of the fact that approximately fifty per cent. of the area was dedicated to and accepted by the City, with the provision that a playground be provided, I will request funds in the Current Estimates for 1956 for such work. Before this work is carried out, however, sufficient land should be acquired on the east side of Coxwell Avenue to provide an entrance to the area. There is presently a large vacant lot at this point which is being used as an entrance, but this is not Park Lands.



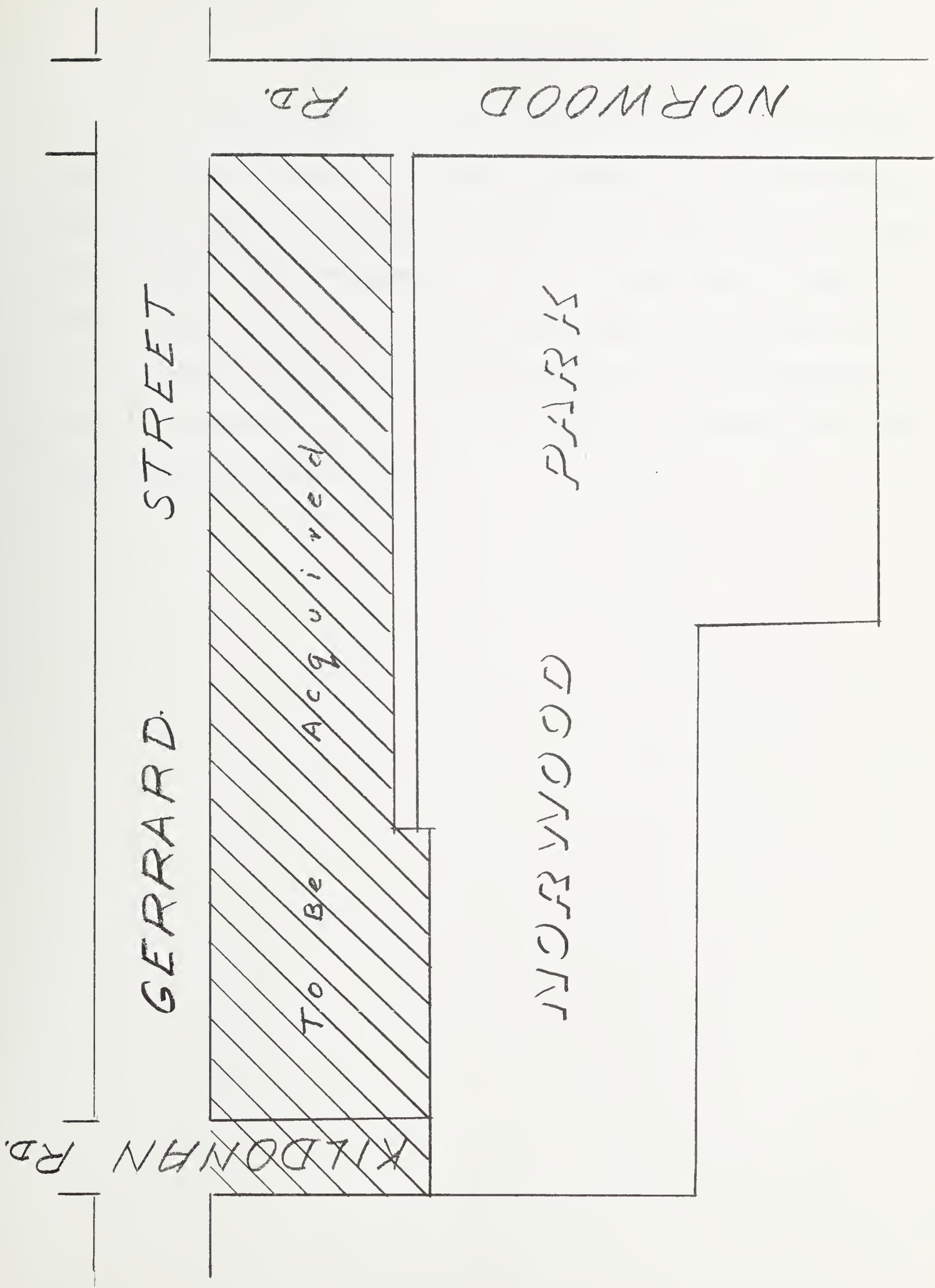
MOOREVALE PARK

This is a small park of only 3.852 acres located at Moore and Welland Avenue. It is the only park land in this area and is greatly used by the community for Tennis, Lawn Bowling and Baseball. In addition a Children's Playground, with Wading Pool, is operated. Unfortunately there is little land left to create a beautiful sitting out place. This could, however, be overcome and additional acreage provided for this heavily populated district if the City were to progressively acquire for parks purposes all privately owned lands in the block bounded by Heath Street on the south, Welland Avenue on the east, Moore Avenue on the north and Kingsmere Road on the west.



NORWOOD PARK

This park consists of 4.040 acres of land situated west of Norwood Avenue in rear of the lots on the south side of Gerrard Street East. At the present time the area is devoted to Tennis Courts, Bowling Green and Children's Playground. This District is badly in need of an area for complete recreational facilities and in another Section of this Report the matter of a Recreation Centre Building is dealt with. In order to construct this building and to increase the area to adequate size all private properties on the south side of Gerrard Street to the north of the existing park should be acquired.



OLD FORT YORK AND BURIAL GROUNDS

These properties are north of the rear of buildings on Fleet Street, between Strachan Avenue and Bathurst Street. Part of them is occupied by Old Fort York and part by the Old Burial Grounds. It is not possible to deal with these lands until the Metropolitan Corporation enter into negotiations with this Department and your Committee for the acquisition of land which will be required for the new Lakeshore Expressway.

OSLER PLAYGROUND

This is one of Toronto's original six Playgrounds and has been in use for many years. It is located on the south side of Argyle Street and also has a frontage on the north side of Humbert Street but unfortunately the property is totally divided in the centre by a travelled public lane running from east to west which, in my opinion detracts from the appearance of the Playground and also creates a hazardous condition for children using the area. While this Playground is reasonably close to Trinity-Bellwoods Park, which we plan to extend, it will always be required as a play area for younger children and should not be abandoned. The present undesirable condition at this location could be corrected if the City were to sell the portion of the Playground fronting on Humbert Street and purchase an equivalent area fronting on Argyle Street.

///// To be Acquired.

XXXXXX To be Sold.

ARGYLE ST.

RD.

DOVERCOURT

PLAYGROUND

OSLER

HUMBERT ST.

OSSINGTON RECREATION CENTRE

This is an old building located on Ossington Avenue, a short distance south of Bloor Street, which was acquired in recent years for use as a Permanent Community Centre. It is totally inadequate for the purpose for which it was obtained and should be replaced by a new structure located in Dovercourt Park, which is closely adjacent. This matter is dealt with in a separate Section of this Report.

When the new building is approved and constructed, the property on Ossington Avenue should be sold.

BLOOR ST.

OSSINGTON AV.

50'

125'

OSSINGTON AV.
COMMUNITY
CENTRE

LANE

ROXTON RD.

PAPE AVENUE RECREATION CENTRE

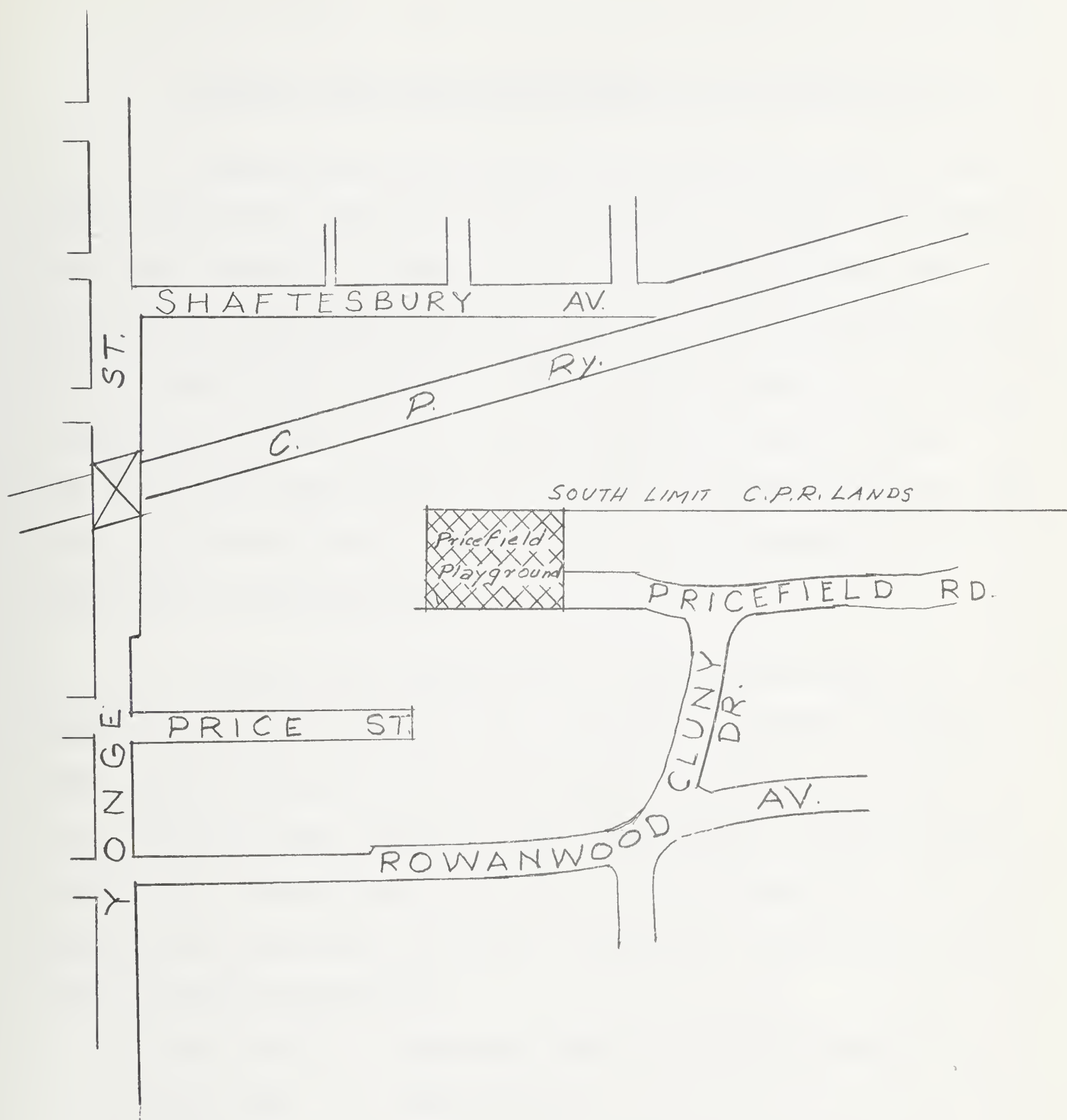
This Centre is located between Pape Avenue and Marjory Avenue, just south of Gerrard Street. At the present time, with the exception of swimming, a complete recreational program is carried on from this centre, partly in the grounds, partly in an old house which is part of the property and partly in nearby schools which are rented for this purpose. The house on the property is certainly no credit to the City of Toronto and should not be permitted to remain any longer than is necessary to provide a modern building. This matter is covered in a separate section of this Report dealing with Recreation Centres. The property has only one entrance which is from Pape Avenue and in addition more land is required for the purpose of a site for a recreation centre building and to carry on the activities in this most important area where existing facilities are being used to utmost capacity. This can best be accomplished by progressively acquiring all properties to the east of the existing east limit of the park out to Marjory Avenue.

GERARD ST. EAST



PRICEFIELD PLAYGROUND

This property consisting of 1.040 acres of land at the west end of Pricefield Road was acquired approximately five years ago for the purpose of establishing a Children's Playground. The Playground was established and operated for a period of two years only, after which it was discontinued because of lack of use. The site is of no value for park purposes and I understand that an adjoining privately owned Tennis Club is desirous of purchasing it.



RAMSDEN PARK, KETCHUM PLAYGROUND AND KETCHUM PARK

Ramsden Park is the only mid-downtown park of any size in Toronto, and it is very irregular in shape and grade. The total acreage is 9.620 acres, which is far below what is required for this District. Prior to the construction of the Transportation Subway on Yonge Street, there was a complementary park on the east side of Yonge Street, forming the developed park entrance to the South Rosedale Ravine, but this was turned over to the Toronto Transit Commission and was lost for park purposes.

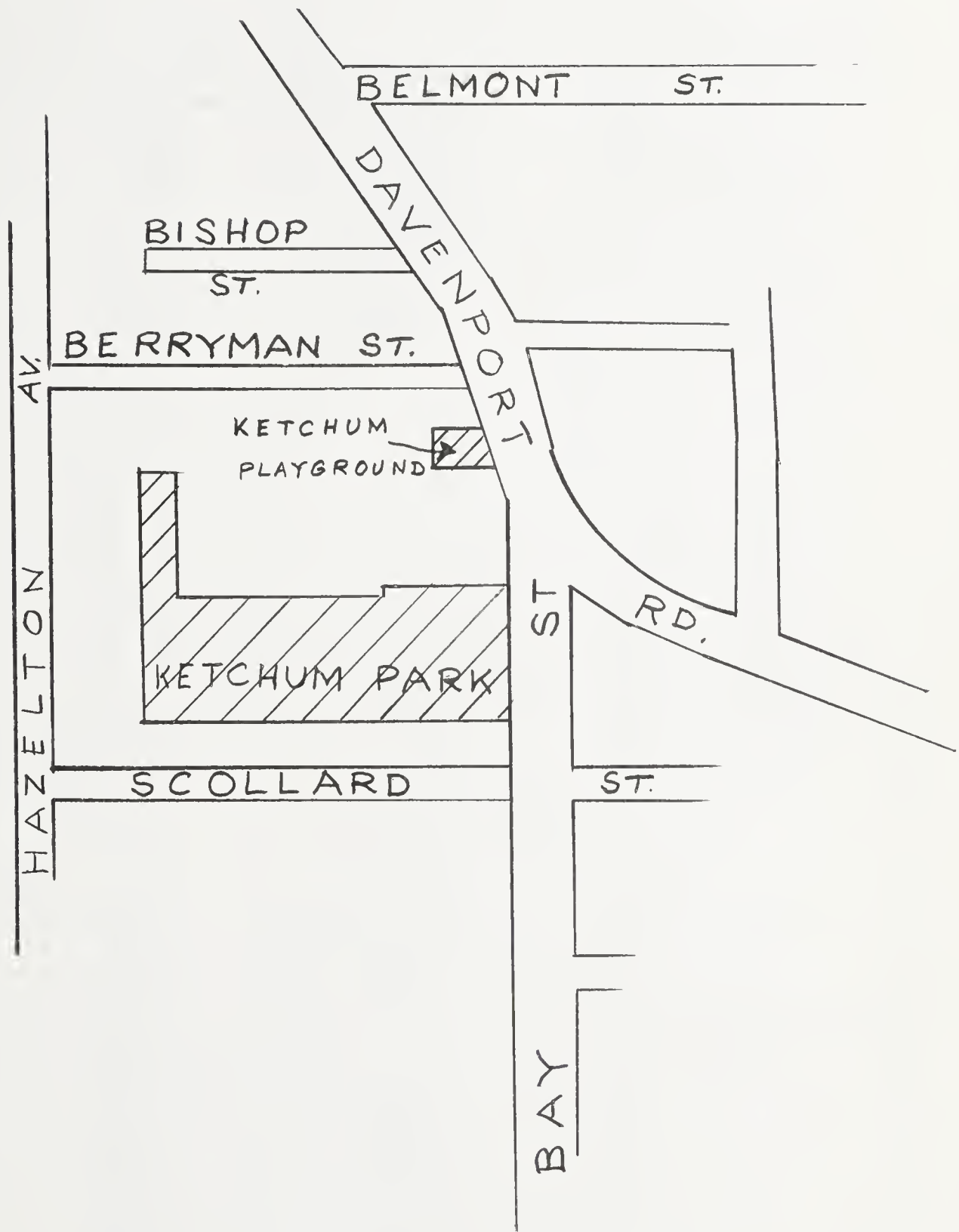
I am of the opinion that a large-sized park is urgently required in this area, and that it should provide ample space not only for recreational facilities, but also for a general park, complete with forestation, horticulture and general beautification. This can be attained by progressively acquiring properties to provide a park area with the following boundaries:-

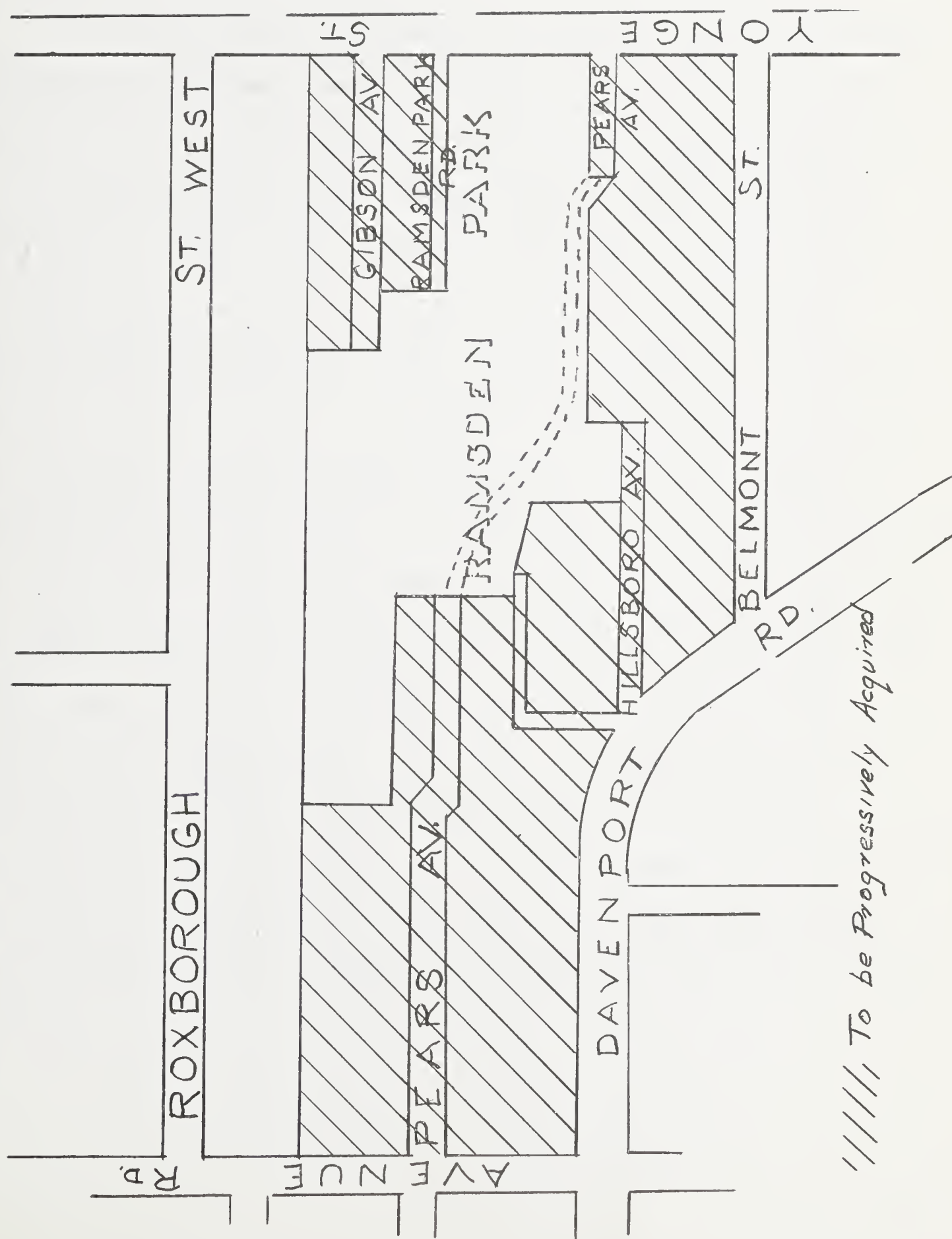
- On the south - Davenport Road and Belmont Street
- On the east - Yonge Street
- On the north - Rear of the privately-owned lots
on Roxborough Street West
- On the west - Avenue Road

In addition to acquiring private properties in the specified area, it would also be necessary to close Gibson Avenue, that portion of Pears Avenue between Avenue Road and Yonge

RAMSDEN PARK, KETCHUM PLAYGROUND AND KETCHUM PARK (continued)

Street, Hillsboro Avenue and Northview Terrace. I am aware that this project is one of major importance but it is, in my opinion, one that would be well worth while. With the approval of this proposed extension to Ramsden Park, it would no longer be necessary to retain Ketchum Park and Ketchum Playground, which are in close proximity.





RAVINES - NORTH ROSEDALE
SOUTH ROSEDALE
NORDHEIMER
SHERWOOD - BLYTHWOOD - LAWRENCE - CHATSWORTH
GLEN STEWART - GLEN MANOR

I am not in a position to make comment or recommendation regarding these various ravines until the final report of the City Surveyor is laid before your Committee. It is expected that this report will be available later this year. There is, however, one comment which I desire to make which would be effective irrespective of the information contained in that report. There is a Service Station located on the west side of Yonge Street, opposite the Alexander Muir Memorial Gardens, which at present is blocking entry to a park area running from Duplex Avenue to the rear of the property mentioned. In addition, there is an area to the south of the Service Station which has been under expropriation for many months without settlement being made or possession obtained. If these parcels of land were obtained, it would be possible to create a beautified park area which eventually would become part of the whole ravine project, and I see no reason why action should not be taken immediately regarding these two parcels of land.



RIVERDALE PARK

This park is bounded generally on the south by Gerrard Street; on the east by the boundaries of the Don Jail and the Isolation Hospital, Broadview Avenue, Montcrest Boulevard, and Royal Drive; on the north by Danforth Avenue and the Prince Edward Viaduct; and Winchester Street, and on the west by the Don River, Sumach Street, and by an irregular line south and east from Carlton Street to a point on Gerrard Street, just east of River Street. Within that area, the Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way, and the Don River south of Winchester Street, with the esplanades and roadways along the Don River, are not part of the park area.

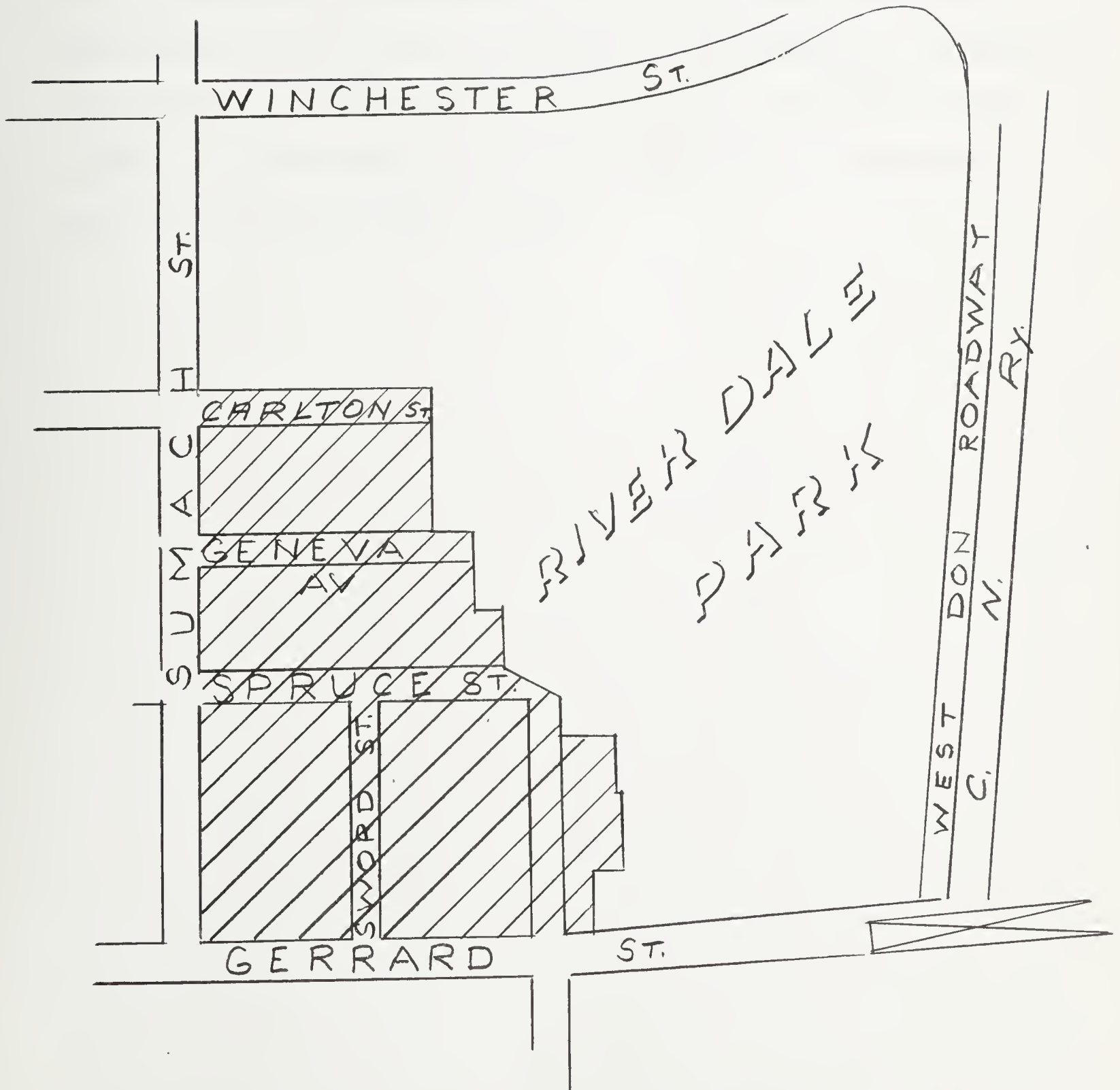
The park contains 104.080 acres and, at the present time, houses the Zoological Gardens and numerous athletic fields. Recently a section of this park, fronting on Broadview Avenue, was taken to provide a site for a new Health and Welfare building, which is nearing completion. Here, again, Parks Land acreage has been dissipated simply to provide what erroneously is considered "cheap ground" for a Civic Building.

At the present time the Administration has before it recommendations for the renovation and extension of the Zoological Gardens in this park which, if approved, will occupy all valley and hillside lands on the west side of

RIVERDALE PARK (continued)

the Don River, from Gerrard Street to Winchester Street. The Metropolitan Corporation are designing a new Don Roadway through this park, which will no doubt greatly reduce the Park Land acreage and which may actually split the park in two. I am unable to give any details in this regard because the Metropolitan project has not been presented to the Committee on Parks and Exhibitions for approval, nor has the Department or Committee been approached regarding negotiations for the acquisition of lands.

While I am not prepared to make final recommendation for this Park until the Metropolitan Corporation project is approved I am of the opinion that the City should progressively acquire those privately owned properties in the area bounded by Gerrard Street on the South, the existing limits of the Park on the East, Carlton Street on the North and Sumach Street on the West.



//////, To be progressively acquired

ROEHAMPTON (OR BRUCE) PARK

This park land has a frontage on the north side of Roehampton Avenue in the area between Bayview Avenue and Mount Pleasant Road. It has an acreage of 1.550 acres and was acquired in recent years but nothing has been done to develop it. It is our intention to proceed with development next year to provide a beauty spot and a children's playground. Recommendation for a wading pool is contained in another Section of this Report.

ROSEHILL AND ST. CLAIR RESERVOIR PARKS

These two sites both house water reservoirs now under control of the Metropolitan Corporation. I would prefer to withhold comment in regard to the future of these areas until jurisdictions between the City and the Metropolitan Corporation have been more clearly defined.

STANLEY, TRINITY AND BELLWOODS PARKS

At the present time there are three sections of Stanley Park, comprising a total of 8.106 acres, as follows:-

1. South Section of 4.48 acres is bounded by Wellington Street on the south, Walnut Avenue on the east, King Street on the north, and Stanley Terrace on the west. In this area the Department operates a permanent year-round playground, sports field and winter natural ice rink.
2. Centre Section of 2.52 acres is bounded by King Street on the south, Walnut Avenue on the east, Adelaide Street on the north, and Stanley Terrace on the west. In this area the Department operates a sports field only.
3. North Section of 1.1 acres is bounded by Adelaide Street on the south, Walnut Avenue on the east, Richmond Street on the north, and Stanley Terrace on the west. This area has never been developed as park land and at present houses six temporary housing units, together with an old metal-clad building which is under lease to the Provincial Government, at an annual rate of one dollar. The Provincial Government has intimated that it will be moving its services from this location and, under order of the Civic Administration, the temporary housing units must be vacated not later than June 30th, 1956, as authorized in Report No. 21 of the Board of Control, adopted in Council on July 20th, 1955.

The South and Central park areas, once the most popular in Toronto for amateur baseball, are receiving progressively less and less use as the district surrounding them changes from residential to industrial. This is being indicated more and more in the steady drop in attendance at

STANLEY, TRINITY AND BELLWOODS PARKS (continued)

the permanent playground, and in the fact that requests for use of baseball fields are decreasing, and it appears obvious that the residential district concerned, i.e., Wellington Street to Queen Street, and Bathurst Street to Strachan Avenue, is destined to become entirely industrial or commercial.

Fortunately there is another park area almost immediately to the north of the Stanley Park property which could and should become one of the City's best park areas. This area is known partly as Trinity Park and partly as Bellwoods Park, although they are actually one parcel of land. The present boundaries of this combined area are part of Queen Street on the south, part of Gorevale Avenue on the east, part of Dundas Street on the north, and parts of Crawford Street and Shaw Street on the west, with a total acreage of 36.24 acres. The area comprises both flat and ravine lands.

At the present time there are thirty-six temporary housing units located in this park which, under order of the Civic Administration, must be vacated not later than June 30th, 1956, as authorized by Board of Control Report No. 21, adopted in Council on July 20th, 1955. This Department operates sports fields, tennis courts, a wading pool and winter natural ice rinks, etc., in this area. In

STANLEY, TRINITY AND BELLWOODS PARKS (continued)

addition, the Toronto Kiwanis Club operates a service for young girls and boys in the old Trinity College Building in the park.

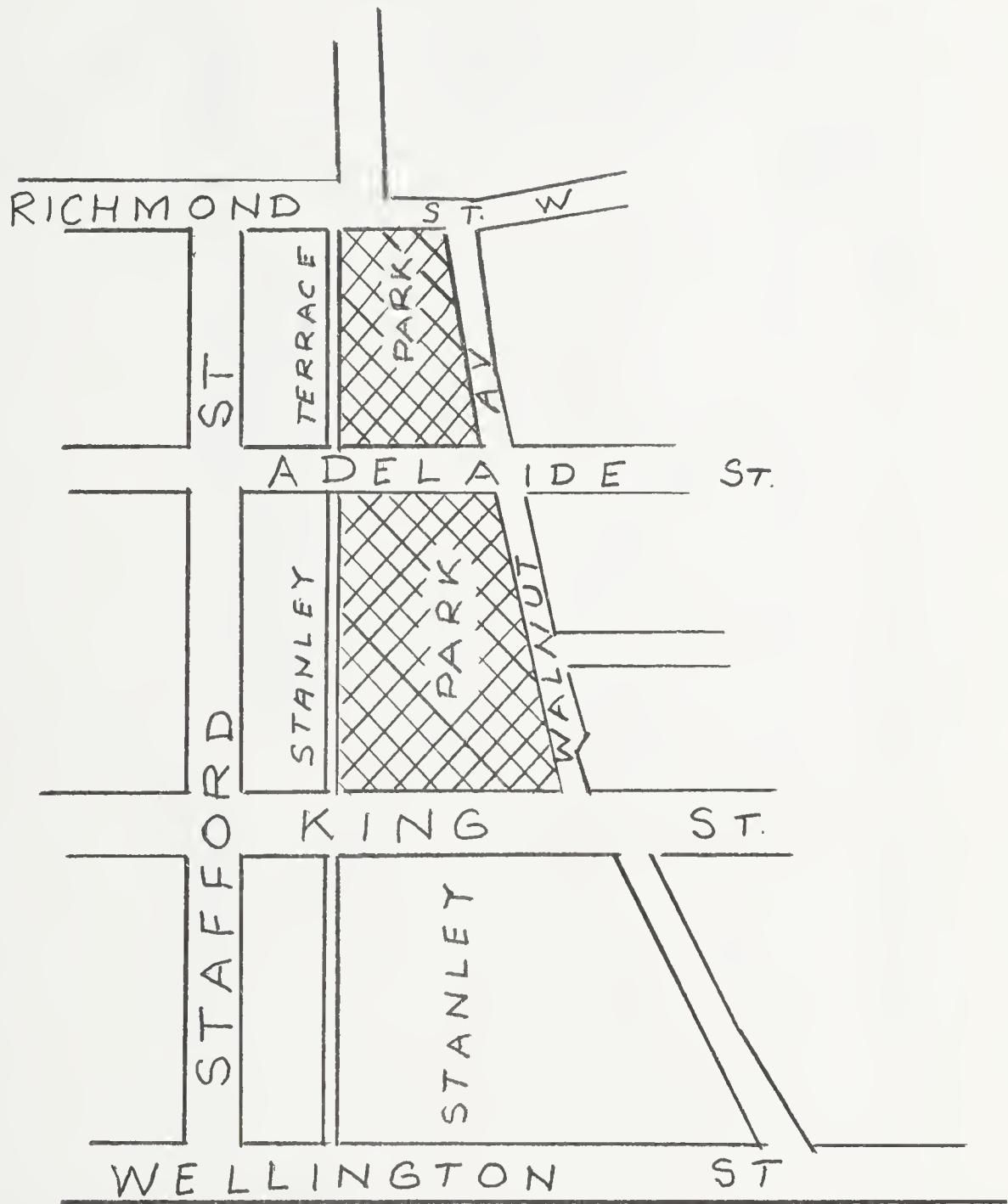
This Park could be enlarged to approximately forty acres with all perimeters improved, if the following steps were undertaken:-

1. The present North and Centre Sections of Stanley Park placed on the market for sale, and the South Section retained as long as it is required to service the diminishing population in the area.
2. The money received for the sale of this valuable industrial property used specifically to purchase those privately-owned properties, stores and residences, contiguous to the present Trinity and Bellwoods Parks.
3. The present Trinity College Buildings demolished.
4. That a modern Recreation Centre, including a swimming pool, be constructed, and that an artificial ice rink be provided. Details of these recommendations are contained in the Section of this Report covering these services.

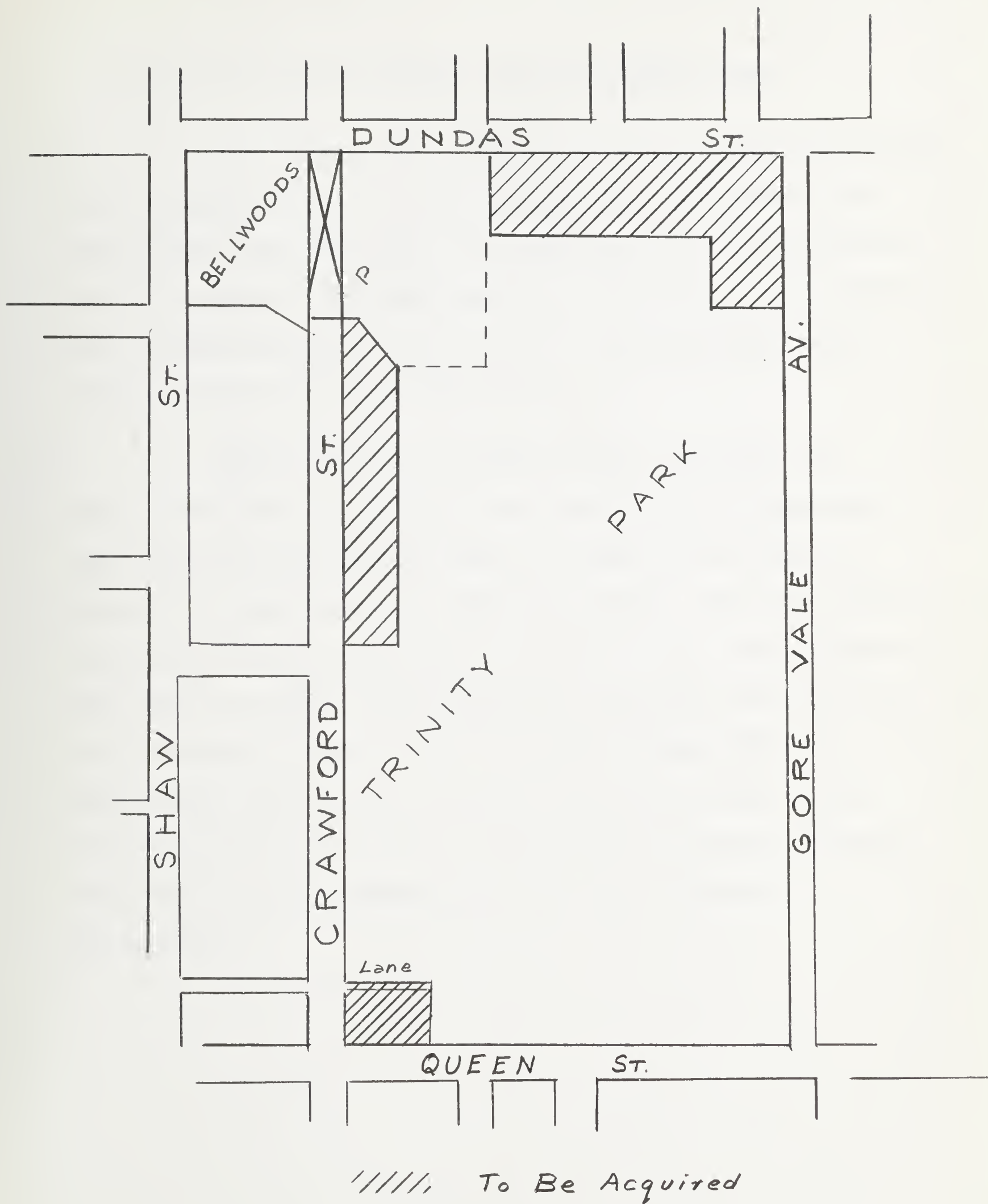
While no estimate is available regarding possible revenue from the sale of Stanley Park Lands, in comparison with the cost of acquiring lands and buildings required to augment Trinity and Bellwoods Parks, it should be borne in mind that the Stanley Park properties would bring a high price, on account of their location in an industrial area.

STANLEY, TRINITY AND BELLWOODS PARKS (continued)

This plan would not, in my opinion, deprive anyone of park service but, conversely, would open up a complete large park area for this section of the City, possibly at little or no cost to the City.



XXXX To Be Sold.



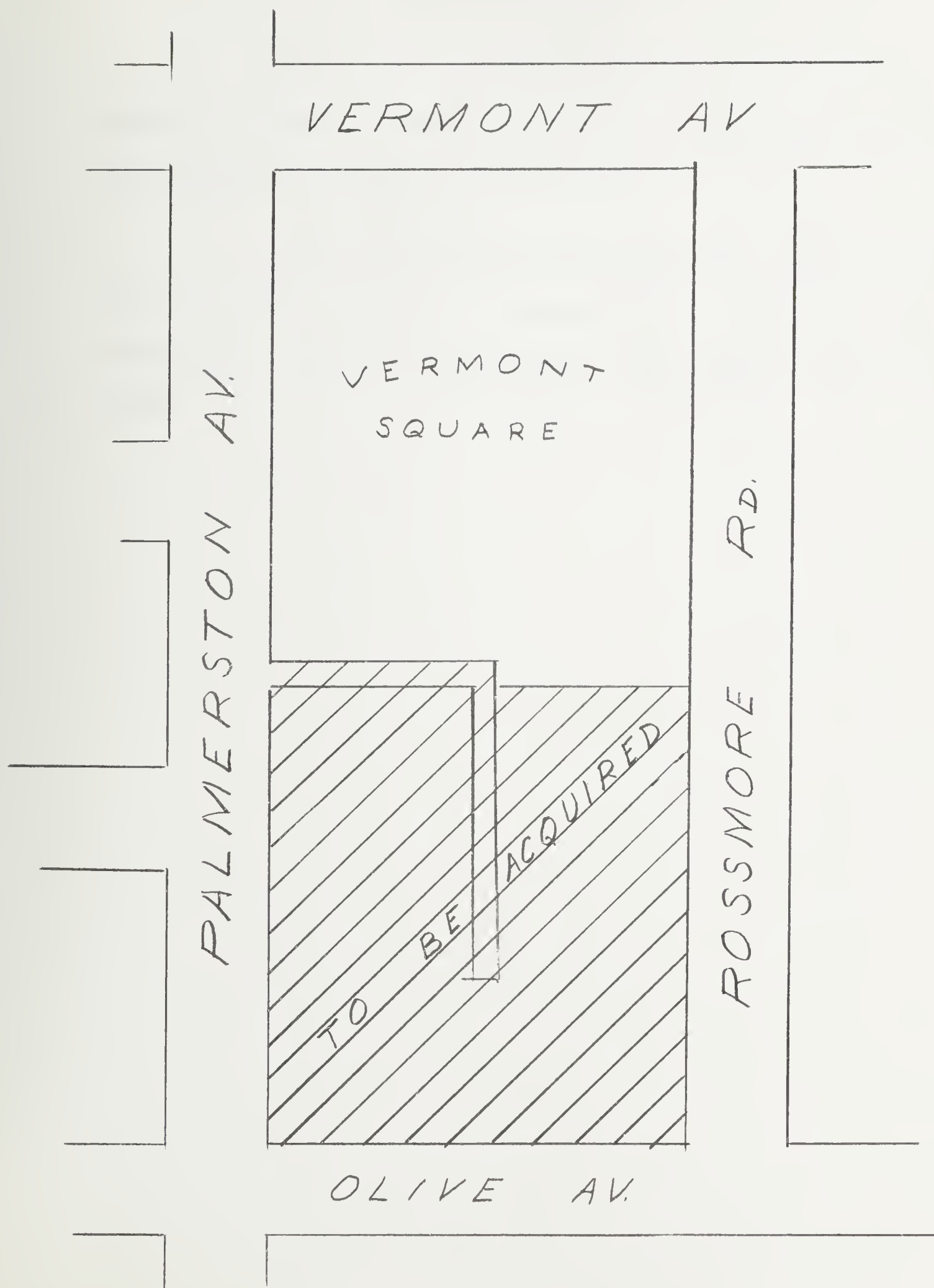
UNIVERSITY AVENUE BOULEVARDS AND QUEEN'S PARK

For information I advise that the centre boulevards on University Avenue are the property of the Metropolitan Corporation and that they are maintained by this Department at the expense of the Metropolitan Corporation. The matter of responsibility for maintenance of trees in the outer boulevard has not yet been settled.

Those portions of Queen's park lying to the south and north of the Parliament Buildings are owned by the University of Toronto and are leased to the City of Toronto as park lands on a 999 year lease. The City takes care of all horticulture and forestry in the area between the road in front of the Parliament Buildings and the top of University Avenue and in the area between Wellesley Street and the top of the Queen's Park Crescents. Care of the areas on the east and west sides of the Parliament Buildings is the responsibility of the Provincial Government.

VERMONT PARK

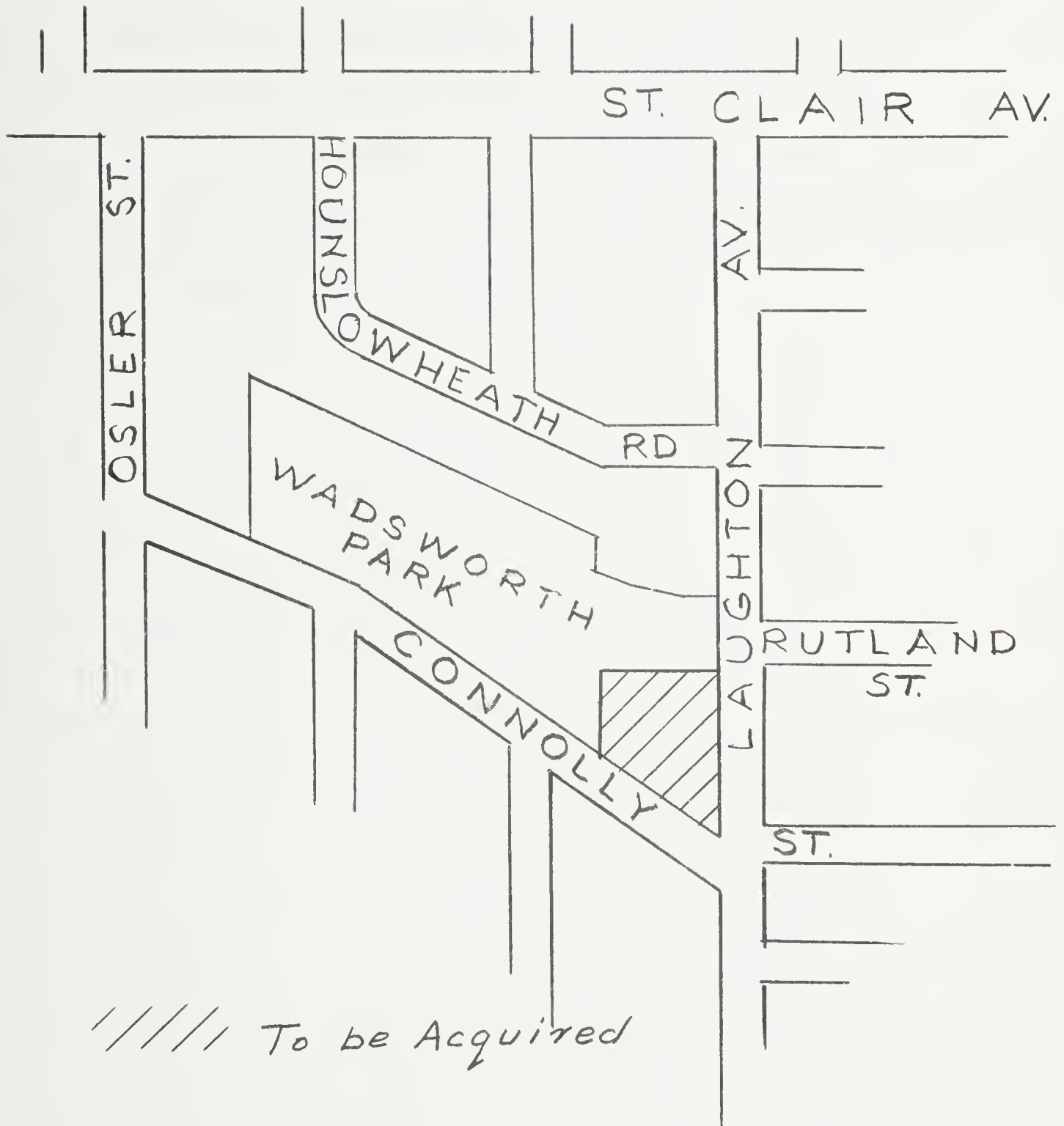
Vermont Park is located at Vermont Street and Palmerston Avenue and is 1.970 acres in extent. It is used mainly as a recreation field for Tennis and Baseball and a Children's Playground is operated. This District is greatly in need of a landscaped sitting out spot and this could be established by progressively acquiring all lands from the present south boundary of the park to Olive Avenue.



WADSWORTH PARK

This is an athletic field and children's playground located on Connolly Street and Laughton Avenue and the present acreage is 4.040 acres.

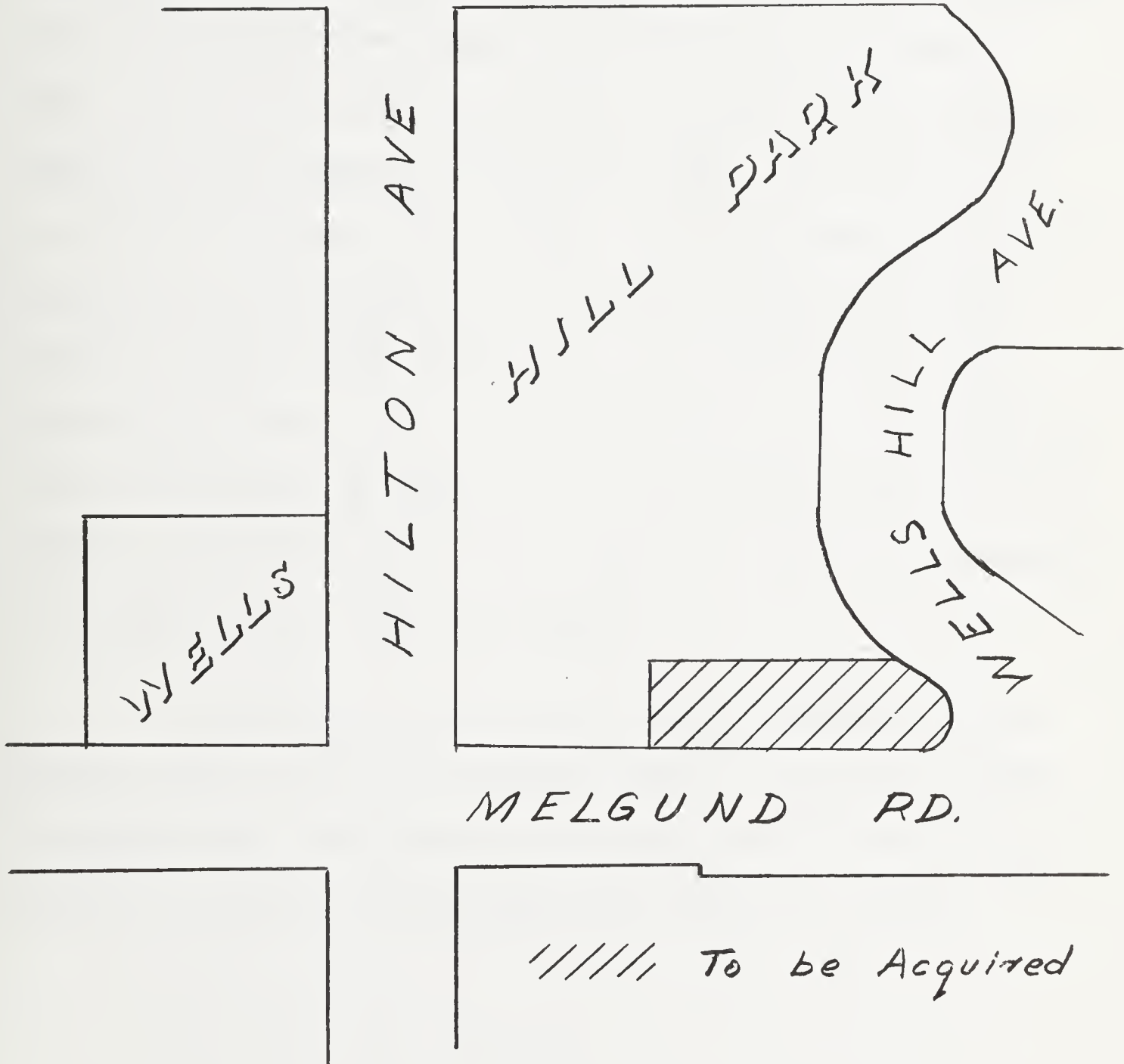
There is a section of privately owned property on the corner of the two above-mentioned Streets which should be acquired progressively to round out this park land.



WELLS HILL PARK

Wells Hill Park is located on the south side of St. Clair Avenue West between Hilton and Lyndhurst Avenues. The main portion of this Park is used as a sitting out place. There is one privately owned house and lot at the south east corner of the main park which should be acquired to round out the area.

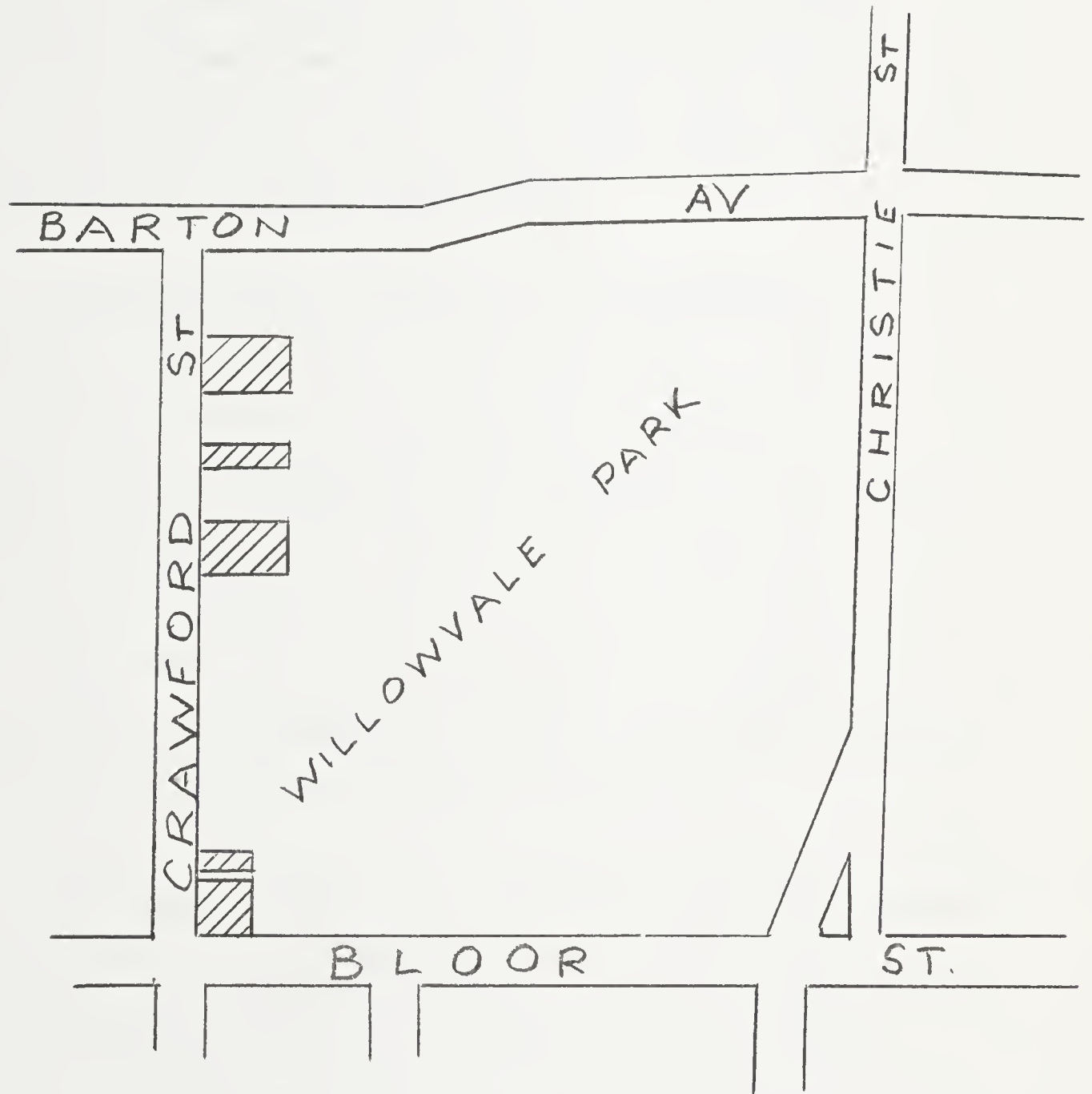
ST. CLAIR AVE.



WILLOWVALE PARK

This park is bounded by Bloor Street on the South, Christie Street on the East, Barton Avenue on the North and parts of Crawford Street on the West. Present acreage is 22.451 acres. There are three temporary housing units in this park which under Board of Control Report No. 21 adopted in Council July 20th, 1955 must be vacated by June 30th, 1956. The Department operates several sport's fields in the area together with the modern outdoor Alex. Duff Pool. In winter this area provides the best of our natural ice rinks. The southern end of the Park is treed and is used extensively by the public. The Toronto Parking Authority operates a parking lot adjoining the Swimming Pool.

There are still nine private houses and one Service Station on the Crawford Street and Bloor Street frontages and these should be progressively acquired to provide a complete block for this important Park.



////// To Be Acquired

WITHROW PARK

This park comprises 20.280 acres of dedicated lands and is bounded on the north by McConnell Avenue, on the east by Carlaw Avenue, on the west by Logan Avenue, and on the south by a small portion of Bain Avenue, the remainder being a lane which provides access to the garages of private dwellings.

Withrow Park contains two fieldhouses, a bowling green and clubhouse, together with a soccer field, softball diamond, a wading pool operated in conjunction with a children's playground, and this year a portable artificial ice rink will be installed.

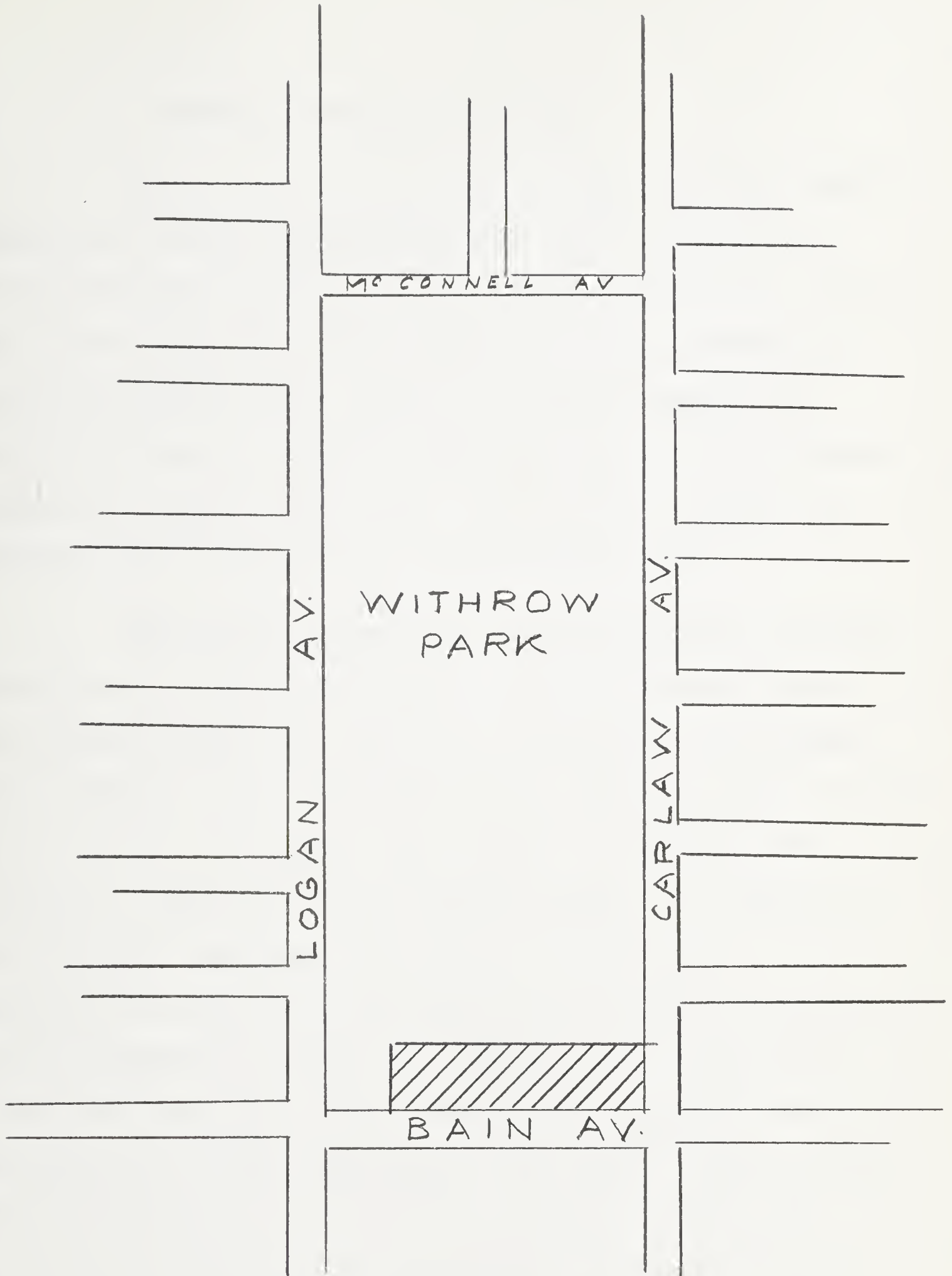
The park is a very popular one, located in a heavily-populated residential area, and large numbers of people make use of its varied facilities.

This park, with its undulating contours, lends itself ideally to horticultural development. This work will be proceeded with in the near future, in order to provide a beauty spot for this section of the City.

There are twenty-eight properties on the north side of Bain Avenue which, if acquired, would round out the boundary of the Park and add 1.55 acres to its present size. In addition, this would permit us to

WITHROW PARK (continued)

undertake landscape work which would add materially to the whole area.



////// To Be Acquired

TRAFFIC ISLANDS IN ROADWAYS

Modern road layout provides more and more Traffic Islands at street intersections and too often these are constructed with a concrete curb and the centre area filled and sodded, without proper regard for the possibility of maintaining them in the future. A typical example is provided at Keele and Annette Streets where such an Island, originally sodded, through use as a loading station for trolley buses, has become an unsightly mud flat.

With proper construction and maintenance, Traffic Islands could enhance the appearance of the street rather than detract from it as they do in many cases at present. In my opinion, where these Islands are small in area, or are to be heavily trafficked, they should be finished with concrete or some other hard-topped surface, but where the City Engineer considers the area to be suitable for the creation of a Parkette, he should first obtain the approval of your Committee through this Department and arrange for a suitable soil fill before sodding, and also for the installation of a water service at the time of construction. These two factors are absolutely necessary if any such Parkette is to be properly maintained. At present there are many Traffic Islands where the sod has been laid over rubble or poor soil fill, with only a few inches of top-

TRAFFIC ISLANDS IN ROADWAYS (continued)

soil under the sod, and where there is no means of watering the area. Under these circumstances, such areas have no chance of surviving and simply become ugly mud surfaces.

While I believe that this Department could and should play its part in beautifying such areas this can only be done if the method set out above is adopted and funds provided for their maintenance.

FORESTRY

Toronto has always been noted for the abundance of trees on City streets, and it also has many fine trees on City park lands, but unless something is done to stop the indiscriminate removal of trees on streets for various reasons such as drain damage, sidewalk damage, construction of new driveways, etc., the streets will eventually lose their fine appearance and trees will become a rarity.

There are, however, many streets in Toronto where, because of overplanting years ago, there are too many trees, with the result that none of them have proper appearance or development. In cases such as this, it is necessary that certain trees be removed in order to improve the appearance of the street.

While there is no accurate count of trees on City property, it is estimated that there are approximately 190,000 located on streets and 25,000 on park lands. For some considerable years there has been no planned reforestation on streets or in Parks and, as an indication of what is happening, I point out that in the latter part of last year a survey in High Park indicated that there were approximately 1,000 dead trees requiring to be removed. Since that time a small crew has been working more or less continuously and most of the trees are now removed. Funds

FORESTRY (continued)

were provided in this year's appropriation for a certain amount of most urgent reforestation in Parks but the whole matter has never received the attention it warrants.

The problem of pruning the street side of trees, on account of the new street lighting, has not only increased the duties of the Forestry Section tremendously, but has resulted in the disfigurement of a considerable number of trees.

Toronto has no arboretum where named specimens may be grown and cared for and where the many thousands of citizens interested in this phase of arboriculture may visit. In my opinion this is necessary if Toronto is to have a complete Parks System.

At the present time the Forestry Section is operating under a Forestry Superintendent, whose time, along with that of his Assistant, is fully taken up in directing the forces engaged in the pruning and removal of trees and with emergency service resulting from storm damage. To-day the Section is far advanced in equipment from what it was a year or so ago and, with the exception of the addition of three more chipping machines, requires nothing but replacements to maintain it in first-class condition. These additional chippers may be purchased at a total cost not exceeding \$9,000.00, and they will be obtained this year if the General

FORESTRY (continued)

Appropriation of the Department will permit. Funds were requested this year for two additional pieces of this equipment, and these have been purchased. Funds were not requested, however, for the additional three pieces, but experience has proven that considerable economy can be realized by their purchase.

For reasons set out herein, I am of the opinion that the Department requires the services of a qualified and competent Arborist who, through this Department, would be vested with full power to decide which trees should be removed and who would direct all phases of our Forestry operations on streets and in Parks, including the construction of an arboretum and nursery for the propagation of trees for reforestation.

PICNIC SHELTERS

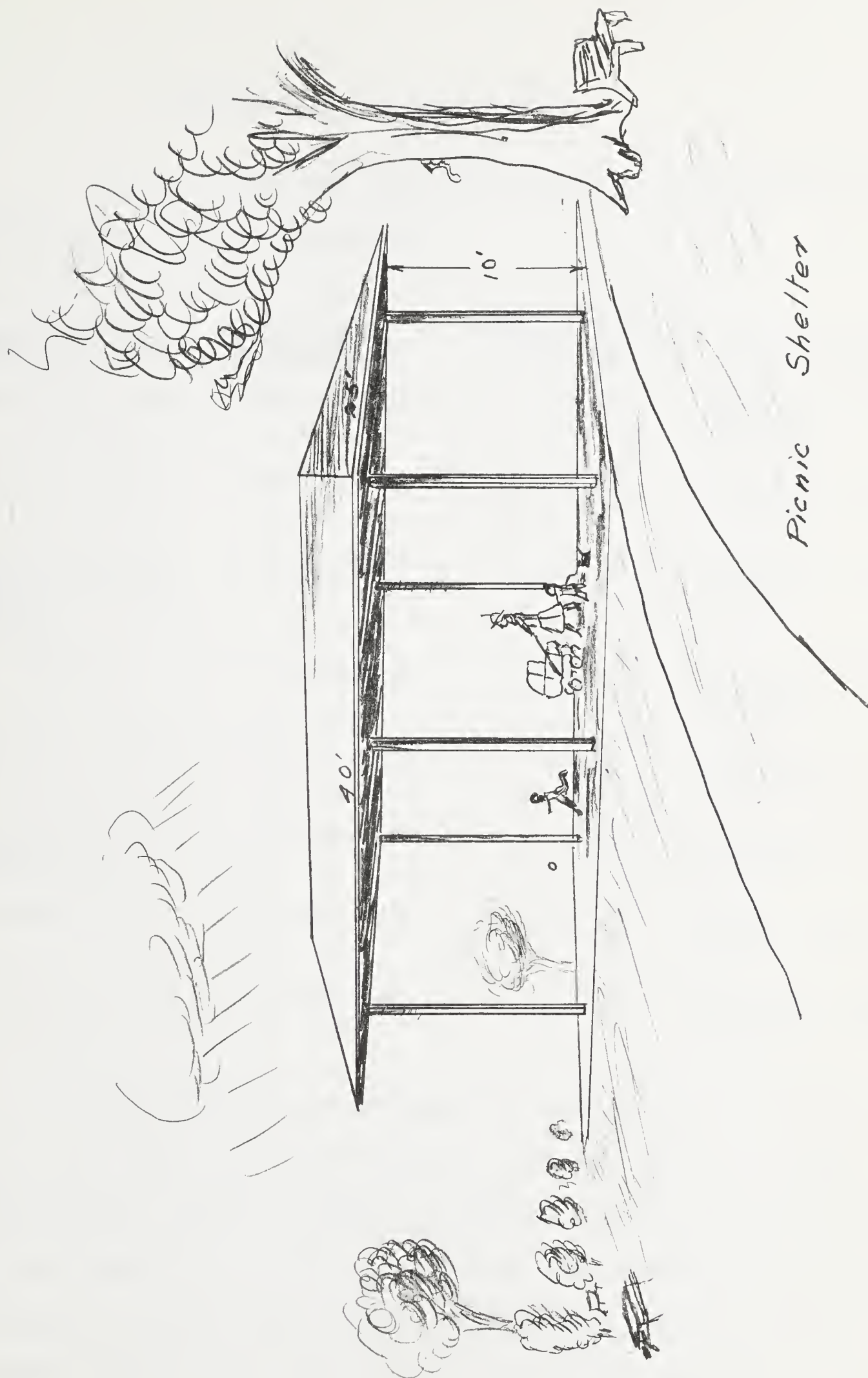
At the present time our parks are lamentably short of shelters for picnickers who are caught in inclement weather. There are a few shelters but, for the most part, they are old, as well as inadequate and uneconomical to maintain. After observation of other park jurisdictions, I am of the opinion that a standard shelter (40' x 25'), as shown on the attached sketch, should be adopted and progressively placed in all park areas where picnics are held. These shelters, of course, would also be a great boon in our parks where there is a reasonably large attendance of spectators at games.

It will be noted that the shelter suggested has a concrete slab floor laid just above ground level, so that no steps are required, metal posts and a wooden roof with asphalt shingles; that the roof is low and projecting, to provide maximum shelter from rain, and that there are no railings or other obstructions. This type of design, as well as providing reasonable protection from the elements, is economical in construction and maintenance and provides a minimum opportunity for vandalism.

The Department of Buildings estimate that this type of shelter can be constructed for approximately

PICNIC SHELTERS (continued)

\$4,000.00 per unit, with the cost varying slightly according to the contour and type of soil at each location.



CONCESSIONS IN CITY PARKS

At the present time the following concessions are rented out to private persons:-

<u>Name of Park</u>	<u>Type of Concession</u>	<u>Annual Amount Received</u>	<u>Expiry Date</u>
Earlscourt Park	Refreshment	\$ 500.00	End of 1955 season.
Eglinton Park	Refreshment	1,000.00	End of 1956 season.
High Park (4 pavilion locations.)	Refreshment	5,500.00	October 31st, 1956.
Kew Gardens	Refreshment	1,500.00	End of 1955 season.
Lakeshore Park	Refreshment	125.00	End of 1955 season.
Millen Memorial Stadium	Refreshment	300.00	End of 1955 season.
Riverdale Park	Refreshment	6,000.00	April 30th, 1957.
Willowvale Park	Refreshment	300.00	End of 1955 season.

In addition, refreshment concessions are operated at the Ted Reeve Arena and Ravina Gardens. Both of these locations are operated under agreement by governing bodies, who have control of the concessions. Concessions operated on Toronto Islands have not been included, owing to the proposed transfer of these lands to the Metropolitan Corporation.

CONCESSIONS IN CITY PARKS (continued)

There are two reasons for maintaining refreshment concessions in Park Areas, the most important being to provide our citizens with reasonable facilities for purchasing articles of food, soft drinks, ice cream, cigarettes, etc., which they require from time to time in holding picnics, attending sporting events, or just visiting the parks; the second reason is, of course, to realize a profit. I am afraid that in the past very little attention has been given to the first and by far the most important reason listed, and the needs of the public have been left to the oftentimes unimaginative functioning of private concessionaries, some of whom are functioning in City-owned buildings and others in buildings which they were permitted to construct themselves. None of these existing buildings are a credit to the Parks System of this City.

I am of the opinion that the City should progressively take over the operation of all food, soft drinks, ice cream, cigarettes, etc., concessions in the parks as existing concessionaire agreements expire; that, where it is possible, existing concession buildings owned by the City be renovated and modernized or removed, and that a new standard type of concession building be constructed in locations as the need for them becomes apparent. In this connection, I am of the opinion that great use can and should be made of automatic vending machines. These are available to-day for the vending

CONCESSIONS IN CITY PARKS (continued)

of soft drinks, hot drinks, candy bars and cigarettes, and are being used in the United States for the sale of ice cream and popcorn.

OTHER EXISTING CONCESSIONS

In addition to private food concessions, there are those providing boating facilities in High Park, together with those operated by the City, which provide checking and towels at bathing beaches, checking at the Alex. Duff Pool, and checking at Artificial Ice Rinks.

The boathouse operated by the City at Silver Birch Avenue is for the purpose of storage only and is carried on at an annual loss of approximately \$1,500.00. The boathouse at Leuty Avenue is not being operated at the present time because we have been unable to procure a concessionaire to take over and I do not consider that the City should embark upon a further money-losing venture which would provide service for relatively few persons.

POSSIBLE NEW CONCESSIONS

There is no real restaurant in any City park at the present time, and I am of the opinion that such service is greatly needed and would be heavily patronized if located in the proper site in High Park. This particular park is not of a community type, but it is the City's

POSSIBLE NEW CONCESSIONS (continued)

largest and most diversified park area, containing, as it does, sports fields, zoological gardens, large picnic areas, an inland lake, a fifteen-acre hillside park now under construction, a children's playground and a large acreage of park in its natural state, etc., and it is heavily patronized by citizens from all over the City as well as by a large number of out-of-town visitors.

The suggested site for a restaurant is on the brow of the hill, on land presently occupied by an old storage building, and is destined to be an outstanding vantage point overlooking Grenadier Pond, the new Queen Street Extension, and the fifteen-acre Hillside Garden at present under construction. In addition, it is immediately adjacent to one of the park roads which is kept open all the year round, and new parking areas which are at present under construction for those visiting the Gardens, and which will provide ample parking accommodation. I am convinced that a modern restaurant at this location, with an outdoor eating terrace for use during the Summer months, would be heavily patronized not only by our citizens who visit the park, but for noon-day business men's luncheons, Service Groups and by visitors from out-of-town. A separate Section of this Report, dealing with High Park, sets out in detail the present use of the park following this year's improvements and proposed projects for the future.

POSSIBLE NEW CONCESSIONS (continued)

If the restaurant is constructed, it can be operated by the City or an arrangement can be made with a private Company on a lease basis. While this may appear to be contradictory to my recommendations regarding other food concessions, I feel that there is a vast difference between the operation of the smaller type of concession and the operation of a full-scale restaurant.

WADING POOLS, BATHING POOLS AND SWIMMING POOLS

Wading Pools

This type of pool should be circular in shape, generally with a diameter of 62 feet, exclusive of walkway, and with a depth of 18 inches in the centre. Where there is not sufficient available land for this diameter a smaller pool can be constructed but in no case should they have a diameter of less than 46 feet, exclusive of walkway. The outer edge should not be curbed but should be feathered out to provide a dry four-foot walkway around the pool and the area beyond that should be sodded and planted with trees. Pools of this type would actually help to beautify a park area. In addition, they serve two definite purposes - first, they provide an admirable cooling spot for children in hot Summer months - second, they serve to allay a child's fear of water, thus starting them on the way to becoming efficient swimmers. This latter fact is attested to by a board of swimming instructors and coaches which I consulted. They advised me that wading pools are of the utmost value in this regard. Further, wading pools constructed with shade trees adjacent thereto provide an ideal spot for mothers to sit and watch their children at play - a most desirable situation.

At present there are only two of these modern type pools in operation in Toronto and both of these were

provided through the generosity of citizens - the first one at Dufferin Grove was donated by Mr. Fred Orpen, in memory of his father, the late Mr. Abe Orpen, and the second one at Kew Gardens was donated by the Beaches Lions' Club. This year's Administration approved three more of this type of wading pool and contracts have been awarded for their construction. In the case of the one which is to be constructed at Moss Park, a most generous donation was received from Mrs. D. M. Hogarth of this City, who is intensely interested in children's work. The type of pool described costs in the neighbourhood of \$10,000.00.

In addition to the wading pools mentioned above, this Department operates 19 additional wading pools of older design. Of this number approximately 15 can be re-designed to provide pools somewhat similar to the type described, at reasonable individual cost. The remaining 5 are obsolete, either through size, design or condition, and should be replaced by the modern type.

This year the "spray" type of pool came under discussion and, for your information, I advise that this type is simply a concrete or other hard-topped drained area where children stand or play while water from the City water system is sprayed on them from a type of shower head. Notwithstanding that the cost of constructing this type of pool is much less than the type previously mentioned, I am not in favour of them, for two reasons:- First, they do not

Wading Pools (continued)

provide a body of water in which children may splash and play and, therefore, do not serve the purpose of conditioning children to being in the water and starting them as swimmers; second, because Toronto's tap water is much too cold, on the average, to be sprayed on children directly. Water temperatures this year are not a proper criterion in this regard because of the exceptionally hot Summer. The Department of Works has advised me that the average tap water temperatures during the last five years have been as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
1950	45.0	45.3	53.2
1951	52.4	49.1	55.0
1952	47.9	51.1	56.7
1953	50.6	52.3	59.8
1954	48.1	50.7	56.9

Bathing Pools

These can be of varying lengths or widths, with a minimum and maximum length between 75 and 150 feet and a minimum and maximum width between 42 and 56 feet. They need only from 3 to 5 feet in depth and should not have diving boards. This type of pool should be constructed outdoors only for Summer swimming and, in every case, should have wide concrete or other hard-topped aprons where bathers may stand, sit or lie in the sun.

Bathing Pools (continued)

The prime reason for an outdoor pool is to provide children and adults with a place to cool off and refresh themselves during hot Summer months. To accomplish this it is not necessary to construct large deep pools at an enormous expense, because such pools do not give the maximum accommodation required. A continuous check at the Alex. Duff Swimming Pool this year indicated that 27.9 per cent. of the bathers were in the shallow section, which constitutes 50 per cent. of the pool area, whilst only 12.4 per cent. of the bathers were in the deep end. In addition to the percentage used, it should be borne in mind that the deep end of any pool is the portion which greatly increases the cost. The three to five-foot pool, in addition to being ideal for "bathing", also lends itself admirably for the instruction of non-swimmers and for the training and practising of experienced competitive swimmers.

At present Toronto has no bathing pools of this type. As a matter of fact, there is only one outdoor pool under the jurisdiction of this Department, and that is the Alex. Duff Pool at Willowvale Park. Admittedly this is a magnificent pool, complete with diving boards, towers and requisite deep end, but for the reasons set out, I do not feel that we should construct more pools of this type. In saying this, I am in no way disregarding the necessity of adequate provision for training and performance of divers,

Bathing Pools (continued)

and I cover such requirements under the heading of "Swimming Pools".

There is one other item in this regard and it is, in my opinion, as well as in the opinion of swimming coaches and instructors, a most important one. Provision of diving facilities, particularly tower diving, in a pool used greatly by bathers and swimmers, constitutes a real hazard from the danger of collision. This is so evident that on many occasions when the Alex. Duff Pool has been crowded, it has been necessary to forbid use of the boards and towers.

Construction of Bathing Pools will naturally necessitate construction of dressing room, check room and wash room facilities, all housed in a building adjacent to the pool itself. If these services were to be used only during the Summer months, when swimming is possible, the ratio of cost to use of the same would be high. This, however, can be overcome by designing the building to provide swimming in the Summer, Artificial Ice Skating in the Winter, and other recreational activities during other seasons of the year.

Swimming Pools

Pools under this heading should be constructed indoors only for all-year-round use. There are two types of pools involved, which I

Swimming Pools (continued)

shall deal with separately under this heading. First, there is a definite and immediate need for a pool for competitive swimming and diving. At the present time Toronto does not have a pool in which competitions may be held. As a result, we not only find ourselves in the position that the Ontario Indoor Championship and the Canadian Indoor Championship cannot be held here but, because of lack of space, Toronto swimmers, representing the City, have had to go to other cities to train and compete in preparatory competition. This condition can be corrected only by the construction of an indoor pool 75 feet long and wide enough to accommodate at least 6 competitive lanes. A separate diving bay across one end of this pool should be constructed with sufficient depth and equipment to provide ample space for training and competitive diving. In addition, space should be provided for a reasonable number of spectators. If such a pool were constructed, Toronto should and would become a centre for this most important amateur sport, rather than being more or less of a nonentity in this sphere of activity as it is at the present time.

The second type of indoor pool, which would give the most return would, with certain modifications, be the same as that existing at the John M. Innes Community Centre and should be constructed as part of such Centres, rather than simply as swimming pools. With slightly more headroom

Swimming Pools (continued)

for the one-metre diving board and an adjustment in width and markings to provide 6 competitive lanes, this size and type of pool would fill every requirement for instructing non-swimmers, training competitive swimmers, holding community competitive meets, and for carrying out primary instruction in diving.

In the design of one or more of this type of pool, provision should be made for a small tank adjoining the regular one which can be devoted to the most necessary work of paraplegic therapy. This type of tank need be neither large nor deep, but it should be at such elevation that entrance from outside the building can be made by use of an easily graded ramp. Provision should also be made for a ramp entrance to the pool itself and for all necessary crane and sling equipment, etc., which will help in this necessary work which, in every sense of the word, is recreation for those so unfortunate as to require this service.

List of Pools

The following list indicates the location of each type of existing pool in the Parks & Recreation System.

WADING POOLS

Name

Location

Monarch Park

Monarch Park Ave.

List of Pools (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Dufferin Grove	Dufferin & Sylvan
St. Andrew's	Adelaide & Brant
Withrow	Logan & Carlaw
McCormick	Brock Ave.
Alexandra Park	Bathurst & Dundas
Beresford Park	Beresford Ave.
Kew Gardens	Queen St. E. & Lee Ave.
Earlscourt Park	St. Clair & Lansdowne
Ramsden Park	Yonge St.
Sherwood Park	Sherwood Ave.
Davisville Park	Mt. Pleasant & Davisville
Regent	St. Davids St.
Riverdale Park	Sumach St.
Dovercourt Park	Bartlett & Fernbank
Vermont Square	Palmerston Ave.
Bellwoods Park	North of Trinity Park
Moorevale Park	Moore Ave.
Fred Hamilton	Roxton Rd.
Greenwood Park	Greenwood Ave.
Victoria Memorial	Portland St.

Three authorized:

Moss Park	Sherbourne St.
Carlton Park	Frankland Ave.
Runnymede Park	St. Clair Ave. W.

BATHING POOLS

NIL.

OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS

Alex Duff Memorial Pool	Willowvale Park
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INDOOR SWIMMING POOLS

John Innes Recreation Centre	Sherbourne & Shuter St.
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My recommendation will provide for the construction of sixteen new wading pools in City Parks or Recreation Areas. This, in my opinion, will provide the City with adequate coverage.

My recommendation will provide for the construction of eight Outdoor Bathing Pools in City Parks. This, in my opinion, will provide the City with adequate coverage.

With the exception of the Indoor Competitive Pool, my recommendation regarding the construction of Recreation Centres covers the matter of Indoor Swimming Pools.

My recommendation will provide for the construction of one Competitive Swimming Pool as described herein and, in this particular case, I feel that comment should be made regarding my selection of Ramsden Park as a site. I believe that since such a pool must serve all of Toronto in this particular field it will, of necessity, require to be located as close to the centre of the City as possible. It is also necessary to ensure that it is easily accessible by general transportation lines. A further consideration was to select an area where we also desired to locate a permanent artificial ice rink. Taking these three factors into consideration, Ramsden Park became the only logical location which could be considered.

PLAYGROUNDS

The following Playgrounds are presently operated by the City of Toronto:-

1. Permanent buildings and grounds for both Summer and Winter Operation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
McCormick Recreation Centre	Brock Avenue
Stanley Park Recreation Centre	Wellington St. West
Morse Recreation Centre	Morse Street
Pape Recreation Centre	Pape Avenue

2. For Summer use only

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Adam Beck School	Scarborough Road
Alexander Muir School	Gladstone Avenue
Alexandra Park	Bathurst & Dundas Sts.
Annette Street School	Annette Street
Balsam Avenue Playground	Balsam Avenue
Balmy Beach School	Pine Avenue
Bedford Park School	Ranleigh Avenue
Bellwoods Park	North of Trinity Park
Beresford Park	Beresford Avenue
Bickford Park	Harbord and Grace Streets
Bowmore Road School	Bowmore Road
Brown School	Avenue Road
Bruce School	Larchmount Road
Carlton Park	Franklin Avenue
Cawthra Playground	Albany Avenue
Central Technical School	Harbord Street
Charles G. Fraser School	Manning Avenue
Chelsea Playground	Chelsea Avenue
Clarence Square	Spadina Ave. & Wellington St.
Coleman Avenue School	Coleman Avenue
Cottingham Square	Cottingham Street
Davenport Road School	Davenport Rd. & Osler St.
Davisville Park	Mt. Pleasant Rd. & Davisville
Davisville School	Davisville Avenue
Dewson Street School	Dewson St. & Concord Ave.
Dovercourt Park	Bartlett & Fernbank Avenues
Dufferin Grove	Dufferin St. & Sylvan Avenue
Earl Beatty School	Woodington Avenue
Earl Grey School	Jones Avenue
Earl Haig School	Earl Haig Avenue
Earlscourt Park	St. Clair & Lansdowne Aves.

2. For Summer use only (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Earlscourt School	Dufferin Street
East Lynn Park	Danforth Avenue
East Riverdale Playground	1511 Queen Street East
Eglinton Park	Eglinton Avenue West
Essex Street School	Essex Street
Franklin School	Logan Avenue
Fred Hamilton Playground	Roxton Road
General Mercer School	Silverthorne Avenue
Gledhill School	Gledhill Avenue
Grace Street School	Grace Street
Grange Park	Dundas and Beverley Sts.
Greenwood Park	Greenwood Avenue
Harbord Collegiate Inst.	Harbord Street
High Park	Parkside Drive
Hillcrest Park	Hillcrest Drive
Hodgson School	Davisville Avenue
Howard School	Howard Park Avenue
Hughes School	Caledonia Road
Huron Street Playground	Huron St. & Lowther Ave.
Indian Road Cres. School	Indian Road Crescent
John Fisher School	Erskine Avenue
John Ross Robertson School	Glengrove Avenue West
John Wanless School	Brookdale Avenue
Keele Street School	Keele Street
Kent School	Dufferin Street
Ketchum Park	Bay Street
Kew Beach School	Queen Street East
Kew Gardens	Queen Street & Lee Avenue
Kimberley Street School	Kimberley Street
King Edward School	Bathurst Street
Lakeside Camp	Foot of Bathurst Street
Lansdowne School	Spadina Avenue
Leslie Grove Playground	Queen St. E. and Jones Ave.
Leslie Street School	Leslie Street
Lord Dufferin School	Berkeley Street
Little Trinity Church	Queen Street East
MacGregor Playground	Lansdowne Avenue
McMurrich School	Winona Drive
Maurice Cody School	Belsize Drive
Monarch Park	Monarch Park Avenue
Moorevale Park	Moore Avenue
Norway School	Kingston Road
Norwood Park	Norwood Road
Ogden School	Phoebe Street
Old Weston Rd. Playground	Old Weston Road
O'Neill Playground	St. David Street
Orde Street School	Orde Street
Oriole Park	Oriole Parkway
Osler Playground	Argyle Street
Ossington Playground	Bloor St. & Ossington Avenue
Palmerston Ave. School	Palmerston Avenue
Park School	Sydenham Street

2. For Summer use only (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Parkdale School	Lansdowne Avenue
Pauline Avenue School	Pauline Avenue
Perth Square	Perth Avenue
Queen Alexandra School	Broadview Avenue
Queen Victoria School	Close Avenue
Ramsden Park	Yonge Street
Rebecca Mary Church School	Bolton Avenue
Regal Road School	Regal Road
Regent Housing	Gerrard Street East
Riverdale Park	Broadview Avenue
Rose Avenue School	Ontario Street
Runnymede Park	St. Clair Avenue West
Runnymede School	Runnymede Road
St. Andrew's Playground	Brant and Adelaide Sts.
St. John's Y.W.C.A.	St. John's Road
St. Patrick's Separate School	Beverley Street
St. Paul's Separate School	Queen Street East
Sackville Street School	Sackville Street
Sherwood Park	Sherwood Avenue
Vermont Square	Palmerston Avenue
Victoria Memorial Square	Portland Street
Vine Avenue Playground	Vine Avenue
Wilkinson School	Donlands Avenue
Williamson Road School	Williamson Road
Willowvale Park	Bloor Street West
Winchester School	Winchester Street
Withrow Park	Logan & Carlaw Avenues

3. For Winter Use only, including Rented Buildings

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Building Rented</u>
Adam Beck School	Scarborough Rd.	Board of Education
Alexander Muir School	Gladstone Ave.	" " "
Annette St. School	Annette Street	" " "
Bedford Park School	Ranleigh Avenue	" " "
Bloor Collegiate Inst.	Bloor & Dufferin	" " "
Bruce School	Larchmount Ave.	" " "
Central High School of Commerce	Shaw Street	" " "
Chas. G. Fraser School	Manning Avenue	" " "
Coleman Ave. School	Coleman Avenue	" " "
College St. United Church	Bathurst and College Sts.	United Church
Davenport Rd. School	Davenport Road	Board of Education
Dewson St. School	Dewson & Concord	" " "
Dovercourt School	Bartlett Avenue	" " "
Earl Beatty School	Woodington Ave.	" " "
Earl Grey School	Jones Avenue	" " "

3. For Winter Use only, including Rented Buildings (cont'd)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Building Rented</u>		
Earlscourt School	Dufferin St.	Board of Education		
Eastern High School of Commerce	16 Phin Ave.	"	"	"
Fern Avenue School	Fern Avenue	"	"	"
General Mercer School	Silverthorne Ave.	"	"	"
Gledhill School	Gledhill Avenue	"	"	"
Harbord Collegiate	Harbord Street	"	"	"
Hodgson School	Davisville Avenue	"	"	"
Howard School	Howard Park Ave.	"	"	"
Hughes School	Caledonia Road	"	"	"
Humberside Collegiate	Humberside Avenue	"	"	"
Jarvis Collegiate	Jarvis Street	"	"	"
John Fisher School	Erskine Avenue	"	"	"
John Wanless School	Brookdale Avenue	"	"	"
Lakeside Camp	Ft. Bathurst St.	"	"	"
Lansdowne School	Spadina Crescent	"	"	"
Leslie St. School	Leslie Street	"	"	"
Lord Dufferin School	Berkeley Street	"	"	"
Lawrence Park Collegiate Inst.	Chatsworth Drive	"	"	"
Malvern Collegiate	Malvern Avenue	"	"	"
McMurrich School	Winona Drive	"	"	"
Maurice Cody School	Belsize Drive	"	"	"
Morse St. School	Morse Street	"	"	"
North Toronto Collegiate Inst.	Broadway Avenue	"	"	"
Norway School	Kingston Road	"	"	"
Oakwood Collegiate	Oakwood Avenue	"	"	"
Ogden School	Phoebe Street	"	"	"
Palmerston Avenue School	Palmerston Ave.	"	"	"
Parkdale Collegiate	Close Avenue	"	"	"
Park School	Sydenham Street	"	"	"
Parkdale Public School	Lansdowne Avenue	"	"	"
Pauline Ave. School	Pauline Avenue	"	"	"
Perth Ave. School	Perth Avenue	"	"	"
Queen Alexandra School	Broadview Avenue	"	"	"
Regal Road School	Regal Road	"	"	"
Regent Housing	Gerrard St. East	"	"	"
Riverdale Collegiate	Gerrard St. East	"	"	"
Rose Avenue School	Ontario Street	"	"	"
Runnymede School	Runnymede Avenue	"	"	"
St. Clair Avenue School	St. Clair Ave. W.	"	"	"
Wilkinson School	Donlands Avenue	"	"	"
Williamson Rd. School	Williamson Road	"	"	"

For the purpose of this Report, the John M. Innes Recreation Centre and the new S. H. Armstrong Memorial Recreation Centre have not been included as Playgrounds.

PROPOSED CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO SUMMER PLAYGROUNDS

The foregoing list indicates that generally the City is well served with children's summer playgrounds. There are, however, certain areas where, in my opinion, some changes and additions should be made. These are as follows:-

- Wanless Park - The present playground at Bedford Park School should be transferred to this location to be used in conjunction with the wading pool which is recommended for this area.

- Edgewood Park - Upon completion of grading of this undeveloped area, a playground should be installed to be used in conjunction with the wading pool which is recommended for this area.

- Oakmount Park - The present playground at Keele St. School should be transferred to this location to be used in conjunction with the wading pool which is recommended for this area.

- Monarch Park - A playground should be installed at this location to be used in conjunction with the existing wading pool,

PROPOSED CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO SUMMER
PLAYGROUNDS (continued)

- Roehampton Park - A playground should be installed at this location to be used in conjunction with the wading pool which is recommended for this area.
- Moncur Playground - Upon completion of grading of this undeveloped area, a playground should be installed at this location.
- Wells Hill Park - A playground should be installed at this location to be used in conjunction with the wading pool which is recommended for this area.
- Woburn and Jedburgh - A playground should be installed at this location to be used in conjunction with the wading pool which is recommended for this area.
- Wadsworth Park - The present playground at Davenport School should be transferred to this location.

COMMUNITY CENTRES

The following Community Centres are presently
operated by the City of Toronto:-

1. Permanent building for both Summer and Winter Operation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Ossington Community Centre	703 Ossington Avenue

2. For Winter use only, including rented buildings

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Building Rented</u>		
Adam Beck	326 Scarborough Rd.	Board	of	Education
Alexander Muir	108 Gladstone Ave.	"	"	"
Allenby	391 St. Clements Ave.	"	"	"
Annette Street	265 Annette Street	"	"	"
Bedford Park	81 Ranleigh Avenue	"	"	"
Blythwood	Blythwood & Strathgowan	"	"	"
Bowmore Road	80 Bowmore Road	"	"	"
Davenport	2054 Davenport Road	"	"	"
Duke of Connaught	56 Woodfield Road	"	"	"
Earl Grey	540 Jones Avenue	"	"	"
Earlscourt	1736 Dufferin Street	"	"	"
Eglinton	223 Eglinton Ave. E.	"	"	"
Fern Avenue	128 Fern Avenue	"	"	"
Hillcrest	1339 Bathurst Street	"	"	"
Huron Street	541 Huron Street	"	"	"
Jesse Ketchum	61 Davenport Road	"	"	"
John Ross Robertson	130 Glengrove Ave. W.	"	"	"
Keele Street	76 Keele Street	"	"	"
Lawrence Park	Chatsworth Drive	"	"	"
Collegiate Inst.				
Lord Dufferin	303 Berkeley Street	"	"	"
Malvern Collegiate	53 Malvern Avenue	"	"	"
Oakwood Collegiate	138 Oakwood Avenue	"	"	"
Orde Street	18 Orde Street	"	"	"
Oriole Park	60 Collegeview Avenue	"	"	"
Perth Avenue	316 Perth Avenue	"	"	"
Roden	151 Hiawatha Road	"	"	"
Rose Avenue	675 Ontario Street	"	"	"
Williamson Road	24 Williamson Road	"	"	"

SWIMMING CLASSES

The following swimming classes are presently
operated by the City under the Community Centres Section:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Building Rented</u>		
Allenby School	391 St. Clements Ave.	Board	of	Education
Bloor Collegiate	1141 Bloor St. W.	"	"	"
Eastern High School of Commerce	16 Phin Avenue	"	"	"
Fern Avenue School	128 Fern Avenue	"	"	"
Harbord Collegiate Inst.	286 Harbord Street	"	"	"
Humberside Collegiate	280 Quebec Avenue	"	"	"
Jarvis Collegiate Inst.	495 Jarvis Street	"	"	"
Lawrence Park Collegiate	Chatsworth Drive	"	"	"
Lord Dufferin School	303 Berkeley Street	"	"	"
Malvern Collegiate	53 Malvern Avenue	"	"	"
Parkdale Collegiate	209 Jameson Avenue	"	"	"
Riverdale Collegiate	1094 Gerrard St. E.	"	"	"

RECREATION CENTRES (COMMUNITY CENTRES)

I am of the opinion that the name "Community Centres" which has been in general use in the past is a misnomer. Actually the centres which are shown in the foregoing list are not Community Centres but are strictly Recreation Centres. The only real "Community Centre" under the jurisdiction of this Department is the North Toronto Memorial Gardens, which is operated by a Community Board.

When the City entered the field of "Community Centres" in 1945 the plan was to construct permanent buildings progressively in various sections of the City for the purpose of providing Recreation, mainly for children and teen-agers. One of the main claims made for this service was that it would go far in combatting juvenile delinquency. Because no buildings were immediately available, "Centres" were opened in various Toronto schools but the programme and service has strayed greatly from the original intention in that the major part is for adults and the minor part for children and teen-agers. Because of this the "Centres" have not accomplished the goal which was originally visualized for them. I say this without in any way attempting to deprecate the value of the "Centres" for the adults.

RECREATION CENTRES (COMMUNITY CENTRES) (continued)

Since 1945 there has been only one Permanent Centre constructed, The John Innes Centre at Moss Park. This particular Centre was aimed at providing every facility for children and teen-agers and programmes and service have followed along that line. The Centre operates six days and nights a week and at all times is used to full capacity. It provides a gymnasium, indoor swimming pool, libraries, (one for adults and one for children), craft rooms, large assembly room, kitchen facilities and shower and dressing room facilities for outdoor activities with direct entrance from the fields. While the greater amount of activities are centred around children and teen-agers the adults are by no means neglected and they make good use of the facilities. This is the type of Recreation Centre which is required in various sections of the City and my recommendations will provide accordingly.

In 1946 the City purchased an old building on Ossington Avenue for use as a "Community Centre". In my opinion this was a mistake as the building is too small and the layout is such that a proper centre could never be operated there. In addition, there is no accommodation for swimming, nor could this ever be provided. The City should sell this building and construct a proper centre in Dovercourt Park which is just a short distance away.

RECREATION CENTRES (COMMUNITY CENTRES) (continued)

The S. H. Armstrong Memorial Centre located on Queen Street East at Woodfield Road has just been completed but has not yet been furnished. This structure is satisfactory to a point, but the fact that no swimming pool was included will always detract from its value as a complete centre.

The Pape Avenue Recreation Centre activities are now being carried on in an old dilapidated building which was originally a private home. The structure is no credit to the City and does not even meet the full requirements of the City of Toronto Building and Fire Departments. This particular building should be demolished and a new complete centre constructed.

At the present time the Downtown Kiwanis Club are operating a Centre in the old Trinity College Building in Trinity Park. This operation is subsidized by the City to the extent of approximately \$50,000.00 per year. The old College Building, is, at best, a poor substitute for a proper Recreation Centre and, in the opinion of both the Building Commissioner and myself, can never be reconstructed for this purpose. As a matter of fact, two of the wings of the building, not being used by Kiwanis, are considered dangerous and will have to be demolished in the near future. This particular building should be demolished and a new complete centre constructed.

RECREATION CENTRES (COMMUNITY CENTRES) (continued)

The McCormick Centre on Brock Avenue was constructed over forty years ago and is much too small, providing only a gymnasium and one or two small rooms. This building should be demolished and a new complete Centre constructed in its stead.

My recommendation will provide, in addition to the above mentioned locations, for construction of seven additional Centres at locations throughout the City. If these are approved it will be possible progressively as construction proceeds, to reduce the Winter Playground and "Community Centre" activities presently being carried on in school buildings.

ARTIFICIAL ICE RINKS

The following artificial ice rinks are presently operated by this Department:-

1. Permanent Rinks with service building

Location

Alexandra Park
Dufferin Grove
Earlscourt Park
Eglinton Park
Greenwood Park
High Park

2. Portable Rinks

Location

Kew Gardens
Ramsden Park
Rosedale Park
Withrow Park

ARTIFICIAL ICE RINKS

As previously indicated to your Committee, I am not in favour of the construction of any further portable artificial ice rinks, and my recommendations regarding rinks will provide for the incorporation of two of the existing ones (Ramsden Park and Kew Beach) into a permanent building at Kew Beach.

In my comments regarding "Bathing Pools" I indicated that, where possible, one service building should be utilized for both an artificial ice rink and a pool. It is on this basis that I make the following comments:-

<u>High Park</u>	Existing rink should be maintained and present fieldhouse extended to provide for the housing of refrigeration equipment and a service building for skaters and bathers at the bathing pool which is being recommended.
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<u>Earlscourt Park</u>	Existing rink should be retained and the service building used to accommodate bathers at the bathing pool which is being recommended.
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<u>Alexandra Park</u>	Existing rink should be maintained and a new service building constructed to house the refrigeration equipment and service both the rink and the bathing pool which is being recommended. The
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Alexandra Park (continued)

existing old and obsolete fieldhouse in this park should then be demolished.

Dufferin Grove

No change is suggested for the new rink in this park.

Eglinton Park

Existing rink should be maintained and an extension made to the existing Community Centre to house the refrigeration equipment and provide service for bathers at the bathing station which is being recommended.

Greenwood Park

Existing rink should be maintained and the existing fieldhouse moved and extended to house the refrigeration equipment and provide service for both the rink and the bathing pool which is being recommended.

Kew Gardens

The portable equipment presently in use at Ramsden Park and Kew Gardens should be incorporated as a Permanent Rink at Kew Gardens; the present bathing station at this location should either be extended to house this refrigeration equipment and service the rink and the bathing pool which is being recommended, or a new building should be constructed and the present one demolished.

Rosedale Park
Withrow Park

two sites.

For the present, the existing portable equipment should be maintained at these

Ramsden Park

The existing portable equipment should be transferred to Kew Gardens, as set out above, and a new Permanent type of rink constructed with refrigeration equipment housed and service for skaters provided in the proposed new Competitive Pool at this location.

New Rinks

I am of the opinion that new artificial ice rinks should be provided at the following locations:-

Monarch Park - With a service building to house refrigeration equipment and to provide service for both the rink and the bathing pool which are being recommended for this location.

Trinity Park - With the refrigeration equipment housed and service in the new Recreation Centre being recommended for this location.

Moss Park - With the refrigeration equipment housed and service for skaters provided in an extension to the John Innes Centre Building.

ENCLOSED STADIA

In past years the Department of Parks and Recreation entered into the field of construction of closed grounds with seating accommodation where an admission charge could be made for spectators. The City constructed these fields, stands and enclosures, together with service buildings and floodlighting. The financial arrangements regarding monies received from admission charges are the same in every case, i.e., the City receives 25% of the gate and the remaining 75% goes either to the teams or leagues who operate the games.

I feel that this was a mistake for the following reasons:-

1. Original cost was extremely high.
2. Cost of maintenance is excessive, particularly because it is necessary for us to keep staff on at night to maintain lights, etc.
3. Sections of Parks were closed off from the public for their free use.
4. The City entered into a business which is at least semi-professional, something with which a Parks System should not be concerned at all.
5. Actual harm has been done to sports, particularly baseball. With an open field attendance is good, not only because citizens are not required to pay

ENCLOSED STADIA (continued)

an admission fee, but because they are attracted to the games originally by reason of their being carried on in the open, whereas, with the closed field, thousands pass by without knowing what is going on. This fact was proven this year when a small amount was spent by the Department to transfer some bleachers to Willowvale Park and to fix up baseball screens and playing surfaces. A senior league playing here in early evening and on weekend afternoons without floodlights has attracted large crowds and has created a resurgence in the interest in amateur baseball. In comparison, with this, the enclosed stadia present a much weaker picture. The following table indicates the situation:-

<u>Location</u>	<u>Average Attendance per game</u>	<u>City's 25% Share of Receipts Jan. 1 to Sept. 15, 1955</u>
Earlscourt-baseball	251	\$ 729.13
Coxwell-softball	302	\$1,346.94
Millen-soccer	281	\$1,471.81

It will be noted that the Millen Stadium is being used for soccer.

In addition, there is the Fred Hamilton Stadium, which this year was leased to the National Soccer League from May 1st to November 15th in each of the years 1955

ENCLOSED STADIA (continued)

to 1962 inclusive at a rental of \$6,000 per annum. The League has agreed to make physical improvements to the facilities during the currency of the lease to the value of \$30,000. This was done because the field was being used entirely for soccer and it was considered that, having found ourselves in that position, and knowing that, under the circumstances use could not very well have been discontinued, it was reasonable to make the best possible financial arrangement for the City. This does not alter the fact that there was no valid reason why the Parks System should have been involved in supplying playing fields for what, in effect, is professional soccer, any more than they should be involved in providing playing space for professional hockey or baseball.

OLYMPIC OR BRITISH EMPIRE GAMES STADIA AND POOLS

I have not included any recommendation in this Report regarding the construction of either Stadia or Pools which may be required in connection with projected Olympic or British Empire Games in this City at some future date because, in my opinion, these are matters which go beyond the requirements of our citizens for Parks and Recreational purposes. Further, they are only part of any project required to bring these famous Games to our City, other factors of cost being the provision of bicycle tracks, aquatic courses, tennis courts, housing, etc. In other words, while realizing that any Stadia or Pools which may eventually be constructed for this purpose will afterwards become available for public recreation purposes, I am of the opinion that they should be considered apart from this Report.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

At the present time Toronto has zoological specimens in three separate locations, as follows:-

1. General Zoological Gardens - - Riverdale Park
2. Paddock animals and wild-fowl - High Park
3. Wild-fowl only - Toronto Island

The general plan for renovation and extension of the Riverdale Zoological Gardens was dealt with by a Special Committee, and their findings and recommendations are presently before the Administration for final decision.

Renovation and extension to the High Park Zoo, under the direction of the Curator and Director of Zoological Gardens, is presently under way. This work is being done under Special Item Appropriations provided this year.

It is presumed that the Metropolitan Corporation will take over the operation of the wild-fowl ponds at Toronto Island when they assume this area.

POLICE PROTECTION IN CITY PARK AND RECREATION AREAS

In the past this Department has had the utmost co-operation of the Toronto Police Department in preventive patrolling of various parks and recreation areas, and they have always responded quickly when it has been necessary to call them in an emergency. The amount of supervision they are able to give us in connection with patrol is, of course, in proportion to the men they have available from other duties and, in my opinion, this is far from adequate on many occasions. Parks such as High Park, Riverdale Park, Eastern Beaches, etc., require almost constant patrol and, if ravine areas are developed for parks use, it will be necessary to maintain a close patrol over them. In addition, it is most desirable that a nightly spot patrol be maintained in the smaller park and recreation areas.

High Park requires almost constant attention to maintain proper control of traffic on the roads and to ensure that the area is kept free from undesirable characters. In addition this park, and all other areas, require policing to reduce the costly vandalism to both grounds and buildings which has become only too prevalent in recent years. The annual cost of repair and replacement, as a result of vandalism in our buildings, is staggering and I feel that only by close control can this be alleviated. A most recent case in point occurred at Perth Square, where

POLICE PROTECTION IN CITY PARK AND RECREATION AREAS (continued)

this Department just recently completed the rehabilitation of the fieldhouse. In the past week vandals have torn down the new eavestroughing, ripped new shingles from the roof and otherwise damaged the building.

I have discussed this matter at length with the Chief Constable, and I believe that he would be prepared to meet with your Committee and make certain specific recommendations, with a view to providing an adequate system of policing for parks and recreation areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. General Comment

In making recommendations for the increase of Park Lands, the construction of various types of pools and recreation centres, I have endeavoured to locate them on a basis of need and having regard for various other factors which must be taken into consideration. For instance, not only is it necessary to know what density of population there is presently in an area, but consideration must be given to what may take place in the ensuing twenty-five years in this regard. I am aware that my conclusions in this regard will differ from others, some of whom may quite possibly be more proficient than I am in this field; nevertheless, I have seen fit to do this to the best of my ability. This being so, I have not approached the problem on a Ward basis, but as an over-all City problem.

While in a certain few cases I have indicated the desirability of proceeding immediately with projects, I have, in general, refrained from attempting to set up a complete priority list for all recommendations. I am of the opinion that this can be accomplished better after the Plan as a whole has been considered and when general approval has been given to all or part of the recommendations contained herein.

1. General Comment (continued)

Except in a few cases, these recommendations will not contain any estimates of cost for the various projects dealt with, because I think that any such estimate would not be of value unless the projects were to be proceeded with immediately.

2. Acquisition of Additional Park Lands - General

- (a) That the City apply for necessary legislation, unless this is presently available, which would give the Administration authority to pass by-laws from time to time designating lands, within the confines of the City, as being required for park purposes, and providing that privately owned lands in such areas could not be sold privately without the City first having a reasonable time in which to acquire them by negotiation or, failing this, by expropriation; that no new buildings or extensions to same, or the reconstruction of or replacement of existing buildings in such designated areas shall be permitted without the City first having a reasonable time in which to acquire the properties concerned by negotiation or, failing this, by expropriation.
- (b) That commencing with the year 1956, a specific amount of \$500,000.00 be provided in the Capital

2. Acquisition of Additional Park Lands - General (continued)

(b) (continued)

Expenditures Budget of each year and that this money, together with any other funds which may be realized by the sale of existing Park Lands, be used, from time to time, solely for the purpose of acquiring the lands listed herein which may be approved by the City Council, together with any other such lands which the City Council may periodically authorize for acquisition, and that Capital Funds so provided, if not expended in the current year, shall be cumulative until all authorized properties are acquired.

3. Acquisition of Specific Lands

That the following specific lands be authorized for progressive acquisition as Park Lands on the basis set out in Section 2 of these Recommendations:-

- | | |
|--|--|
| (i) <u>Allan Gardens and Moss Park</u> | All those lands,
save and except
Gerrard Street East, Dundas Street East and Shuter Street, not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Queen Street East, the west side of Sherbourne Street, the south side of Carlton Street and the east side of Jarvis Street and that, when required to complete the extension of |
|--|--|

3. (i) Allan Gardens and Moss Park (continued)

this Park, all of Pembroke Street, Horticultural Avenue, Moss Park Place, and that portion of George Street between Queen Street East and Gerrard Street East, be stopped up and closed as public highways and dedicated as public park lands; and, further, that any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

(ii) Bickford Park

All those lands, not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Harbord Street, the west side of Grace Street, the south side of Bloor Street West, and the east side of Montrose Avenue, and that when required to complete the extension of this Park, any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

(iii) McCormick Recreation Centre

All those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Middleton Street, the west side of Sheridan Avenue, the south side of Frankish Avenue and the east side of Brock Avenue, and that, when required to complete the extension of this Park, any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

3. (iv) Chelsea Avenue Playground All those lands in the area bounded by the rear of the lots on the north side of Edna Avenue, the rear of the lots on the west side of Dorval Road, and the south side of Chelsea Avenue and the existing east limit of Chelsea Avenue Playground.
- (v) Davisville Park All those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Davisville Avenue, the west side of Mount Pleasant Road, the south side of Millwood Road and the east side of Acacia Road, and that when required to complete the extension of this Park, all of the unnamed road allowance south of Millwood Road, be stopped up and closed as a public highway and dedicated as public park lands.
- (vi) Dufferin Grove All those lands, save and except Gladstone Avenue, not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Sylvan Avenue, the west side of Havelock Street, the present north limit of Dufferin Grove and the east side of Dufferin Street, and that any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as Park Lands.

3. (vii) Earlscourt Park All those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Davenport Road, the west side of Lansdowne Avenue, the south side of St. Clair Avenue West and the east side of Caledonia Park Road, except that land occupied by the Toronto Transit Commission, and that when required to complete the extension of this Park, any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.
- (viii) Eglinton Park All those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Eglinton Avenue, the west side of Edith Drive, the south side of Roselawn Avenue and the present west limit of Eglinton Park, and that when required to complete the extension of this park, that portion of Orchard View Boulevard, within the above described lands, be stopped up and closed as a public highway and dedicated as public park lands, and, further, that any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.
- (ix) Exhibition Park All those lands, save and except Lakeshore Boulevard, Dunn Avenue and Jameson Avenue, north

3. (ix) Exhibition Park (continued)

of Lakeshore Boulevard, not presently park lands, in the area bounded on the south by Lake Ontario, on the east by the east street line of Spencer Avenue and the southerly extension thereof, on the north by the south limit of the right-of-way of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, and on the west by the east street line of Dowling Avenue and the southerly extension thereof, and that when required to complete the extension of this Park, all of Starr Avenue, Empress Crescent, Laburnam Avenue and Dominion Street, and that portion of Spencer Avenue between Lakeshore Boulevard and the south limit of the above mentioned right-of-way, and the portion of Jameson Avenue south of Lakeshore Boulevard, be stopped up and closed as public highways and dedicated as public park lands; and, further, that any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

(x) Fred Hamilton Playground

All of those
lands not

presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Harrison Street, the west side of Shaw Street, the southerly limit of the lands presently leased to the National Soccer League,

3. (x) Fred Hamilton Playground (continued)

and the east side of Roxton Road, and that when required to complete the extension of this Playground, any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

- (xi) Grange Park All of those lands, save those occupied by the Art Gallery and the Ontario College of Art, not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Stephanie Street, the west side of McCaul Street, the south side of Dundas Street West and the east side of Beverley Street, and that when required to complete the extension of this Park, all of Grange Road and that portion of John Street north of Stephanie Street, be stopped up and closed as public highways and dedicated as public park lands; and, further, that any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

- (xii) Greenwood Park All of those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Doel Avenue, the west side of Greenwood Avenue, the south side of the lane in the rear of the lots on the south side of Gerrard Street East, and the east side of Alton Avenue.

3. (xiii) Leslie Grove Playground All of those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Queen Street East, the west side of Jones Avenue, the present north limit of Leslie Grove Playground, and the westerly extension thereof, and the east side of Coady Avenue.
- (xiv) Monarch Park All of those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of the Canadian National Railways' right-of-way, the west side of Parkmount Road, the south side of Felstead Avenue, and the east side of Greenwood Avenue.
- (xv) Moncur Playground Those lands fronting on the east side of Coxwell Avenue, lying between Numbers 157 and 161 Coxwell Avenue and extending easterly to the present west limit of Moncur Playground.
- (xvi) Moorevale Park All of those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Heath Street East, the west side of Welland Avenue, the south side of Moore Avenue and the east side of Kingsmere Road.

3. (xvii) Norwood Park All of those lands not presently Park Lands, in the area bounded by the present south limit of Norwood Park, the west side of Norwood Road, the south side of Gerrard Street East, and the present west limit of Norwood Park and the northerly extension thereof, and that when required for the extension of this Park, that portion of Kildonan Road south of Gerrard Street East, be stopped up and closed as a public highway and dedicated as public park lands; and, further, that any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

- (xviii) Osler Playground All of those lands not presently park lands, designated as Lots 101 to 115, Plan 44-D., on the south side of Argyle Street.

- (xix) Pape Avenue Recreation Centre All of those lands lying east of the present Pape Avenue Recreation Centre required to extend such playground lands through to Marjory Avenue, and that when required to complete extension of this park, any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

3. (xx) Ramsden Park All of those lands, not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north sides of Davenport Road and Belmont Street, the west side of Yonge Street, the rear of the lots on the south side of Roxborough Street West and the east side of Avenue Road, and that when required to complete the extension of this Park, all of Hillsboro Avenue, Northview Terrace, Ramsden Park Road and Gibson Avenue, and those portions of Pears Avenue between Yonge Street and Avenue Road, be stopped up and closed as public highways and dedicated as public park lands; and further, that any public lanes in the area, save and except those that serve the lots on the south side of Roxborough Street West, be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

- (xxi) Ravines (Chatsworth) That portion of lands on the south-west corner of Yonge Street and Chatsworth Drive, through to the existing park lands on the west and to lands on the south presently under expropriation under City of Toronto By-Law No. 18243.

- (xxii) Riverdale Park All of those lands not presently park lands, in

3. (xxii) Riverdale Park (continued)

the area bounded by the north side of Gerrard Street East, the existing west limit of Riverdale Park, the south side of Winchester Street and the east side of Sumach Street, and that when required to complete the extension of this Park, all of Sword Street and Geneva Avenue and the portions of River Street and Spruce Street in the area, be stopped up and closed as public highways and dedicated as public park lands; and, further, that any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

(xxiii) Trinity Park

All of those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Queen Street West, the west side of Gorevale Avenue, the south side of Dundas Street West and the east side of Crawford Street, and that when required to complete the extension of this Park, any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

(xxiv) Vermont Park

All of those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Olive Avenue,

3. (xxiv) Vermont Park (continued)

the west side of Rossmore Road, the south side of Vermont Avenue and the east side of Palmerston Avenue, and that when required for the completion of the extension of this Park, any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

(xxv) Wadsworth Park All of those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Connolly Street, the west side of Laughton Avenue, and the existing north and west limits of Wadsworth Park.

(xxvi) Wells Hill Park All of those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Melgund Road, the west side of Wells Hill Avenue, the south side of St. Clair Avenue West, and the east side of Hilton Avenue.

(xxvii) Willowvale Park All of those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Bloor Street West, the west side of Christie Street, the south side of Barton Avenue and the east side of Crawford Street, and that when required to complete the extension of this Park, any public lanes in

3. (xxvii) Willowvale Park (continued)

the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

(xxviii) Withrow Park

All of those lands not presently park lands, in the area bounded by the north side of Bain Avenue, the west side of Carlaw Avenue, the south side of McConnell Avenue, and the east side of Logan Avenue, and that when required to complete the extension of this Park, any public lanes in the area be stopped up and closed and dedicated as public park lands.

4. Sale of Existing Park Lands

That the following existing park lands be offered for sale, subject to any conditions which may be indicated herein:-

(i) Bickford Park

That portion of Bickford Park lying south of Harbord Street, in conjunction with the recommended acquisition of lands to extend that portion of Bickford Park lying north of Harbord Street.

(ii) Brockton Playground

All of the Brockton Playground Lands,

4. (ii) Brockton Playground (continued)

in conjunction with the recommended acquisition of lands to extend McCormick Recreation Centre.

(iii) Fred Hamilton Playground

(a) That portion of the Fred Hamilton Playground presently leased to the National Soccer League.

(b) That portion lying to the west of Roxton Road.

(c) That portion situated at the north-west corner of Shaw Street and Dundas Street West, presently occupied by Wartime Housing.

All in conjunction with the recommended acquisition of lands to extend the south portion of the Fred Hamilton Playground lying between Roxton Road and Crawford Street, north of Harrison Street.

(iv) Lawlor Playground

All of the lands of Lawlor Playground.

(v) McGee Playground

All of the lands of McGee Playground.

(vi) Felstead Playground

All of the lands of Felstead Playground, in conjunction with the recommended acquisition of lands to extend Monarch Park.

4. (vii) Osler Playground All the lands fronting
on the north side of
Humbert Street, in conjunction with the recommended
acquisition of lands to extend the northerly
section of Osler Playground.
- (viii) Ossington Recreation Centre All of the
lands and
premises in conjunction with the recommendation to
establish a Recreation Centre in Dovercourt Park.
- (ix) Pricefield Road All of the lands of
Pricefield Playground.
- (x) Ketchum Park and Ketchum Playground All of
the
lands of Ketchum Park and Ketchum Playground, in
conjunction with the recommended acquisition of
lands to extend Ramsden Park.
- (xi) Stanley Park All of those lands lying
between Richmond Street
West and Adelaide Street West, and between
Adelaide Street West and King Street West, in
conjunction with the recommended acquisition of
lands to extend Trinity Park.

5. Individual Parks

- (i) Exhibition Park That the Commissioner of
Parks and Recreation be
instructed to include sufficient funds in the 1956
Estimates of his Department to provide for the
installation of automatic doors on the Band Shell,
the construction of a concrete "pit" area in
front of the Band Shell, and the regrading of the
area in front of the Band Shell, including the
construction of a rockery at the north limit of the
new grade, after conferring with and receiving the
approval of the Canadian National Exhibition
Association.
- (ii) High Park That the Commissioner of Parks
and Recreation be instructed to
include in the 1956 Estimates of his Department
sufficient funds to provide for additional
lavatory accommodation in this park.
- (iii) Eastern Beaches - That the Commissioner of
Woodbine Beach Parks and Recreation be
instructed to include in the 1956 Estimates of his
Department sufficient funds to grade, sod and
plant the area lying between Coatsworth's Cut and
Woodbine Beach, south of Keating Street, and that
such Estimate shall also provide for an extension

5. (iii) Eastern Beaches - Woodbine Beach (continued)

to the existing Lavatory Building to provide dressing room accommodation for bathers.

(iv) Lakeshore Boulevard That the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation be instructed to include in the 1956 Estimates of his Department sufficient funds to develop the area from the Harbour Commissioners' Bathing Station to a point near the Humber River and south of the "Boardwalk" as a Park, complete with sodding, planting, lavatory building, entrance and exit roads, parking areas and water and electric services.

6. Forestry That the policy of employing a full time Arborist be approved, and that the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation be instructed to apply, through the regular Personnel channels, for the necessary change in Departmental Establishment.

7. Picnic Shelters That the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation be instructed to include an amount of Forty Thousand (\$40,000.00) dollars in the 1956 Estimates of his Department for the purpose of constructing ten Picnic Shelters.

8. Concessions in City Parks

- (i) That the policy of Departmental operation of Concessions in City Park and Recreation Areas be approved, and that the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation be instructed to make recommendations to the Committee on Parks and Exhibitions from time to time regarding actual concessions to be operated.
- (ii) That the policy of the City constructing a restaurant in High Park, to be operated on a private concession basis, be approved, and that the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation be instructed to obtain and forward to the Committee on Parks and Exhibitions:-
 - (a) An estimate of cost for constructing and equipping such a restaurant.
 - (b) A report regarding possible revenue which could be obtained through the rental of such a concession.

9. Wading Pools

- (i) That the construction of Children's Wading Pools be authorized at the following locations:-

9. (i) (continued)

Bickford Park
Edgewood Park
Eglinton Park
Grange Park
High Park
Hillcrest Park
Leslie Grove Playground
MacGregor Playground
Norwood Park
Oakmount Park
Oriole Park
Osler Playground
Pape Avenue Recreation Centre
Roehampton Park
Wanless Park
Woburn and Jedburgh Playground

- (ii) That the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation be instructed to include sufficient funds in the 1956 Capital Expenditure Estimates of his Department for the construction of the above mentioned Wading Pools and, further, that he be instructed to include annually thereafter sufficient funds in the Capital Expenditure Estimates of his Department to provide for the construction of such of these Wading Pools for

9. (ii) (continued)

which funds have not been previously authorized.

10. Bathing Pools

(i) That the construction of Bathing Pools, 3 to 5 foot depth, be authorized at the following locations:-

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Alexandra Park | - | with new building to service bathing pool and artificial ice rink. |
| Earlscourt Park | - | with use of, or extension to, existing artificial ice rink service building for bathers. |
| Eglinton Park | - | with removal of existing Toronto Parking Authority parking area and the use of, or extension to, the existing North Toronto Memorial Gardens Building for bathers. |
| Greenwood Park | - | with the reconstruction of the existing fieldhouse to service both the Artificial Ice Rink and Bathing Pool. |
| High Park | - | with the reconstruction of the existing fieldhouse to service both the Artificial Ice Rink and Bathing Pool. |
| Kew Gardens | - | with the reconstruction of the existing bathing station to service both the Artificial Ice Rink and Bathing Pool. |
| Monarch Park | - | with a new building to service the Bathing Pool and Artificial Ice Rink. |
| Trinity Park | - | with service accommodation to be provided in the recommended new Recreation Centre Building. |

10. (ii) That the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation be instructed to include sufficient funds in the 1956 Capital Expenditure Estimates of his Department for the construction of the above mentioned Bathing Pools and, further, that he be instructed to include annually thereafter sufficient funds in the Capital Expenditure Estimates of his Department to provide for the construction of such of these Bathing Pools for which funds have not been previously authorized.

11. Recreation Centre Buildings

- (i) That the construction of Recreation Centre Buildings, complete with swimming pools, be authorized at the following locations:-

McCormick Recreation Centre	- Replacement of existing building. Swimming Pool to include small therapeutic pool for paraplegics.
Dovercourt Park	- Replacement of existing building at Ossington Avenue Centre.
Pape Recreation Centre	- Replacement of existing building. Swimming Pool to include small therapeutic pool for paraplegics.

11. (i) (continued)

- Trinity Park - Replacement of existing building.
- Grange Park
- Earlscourt Park
- Kew Gardens
- Lawrence Park
- Norwood Park
- Oakmount Park
- Riverdale Park - Subject to land being available upon completion of the proposed Don Valley Roadway.

- (ii) That the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation be instructed to include sufficient funds in the 1956 Capital Expenditure Estimates of his Department for the construction of the above mentioned Recreation Centre Buildings and, further, that he be instructed to include annually thereafter sufficient funds in the Capital Expenditure Estimates of his Department to provide for the construction of such of these Recreation Centre Buildings for which funds have not been previously authorized.

12. Competitive Swimming Pool

- (i) That the construction of a Competitive Swimming Pool be authorized at Ramsden Park.

12. (ii) That the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation be instructed to include sufficient funds in the 1956 Capital Expenditure Estimates of his Department for the construction of the above mentioned Competitive Swimming Pool and, further, that he be instructed to include annually thereafter sufficient funds in the Capital Expenditure Estimates of his Department to provide for the construction of such a pool if funds have not been previously authorized.

13. Changes and Additions to Summer Playgrounds

- (i) That the present playground at Bedford Park School be transferred to Wanless Park.
- (ii) That the present playground at Keele Street School be transferred to Oakmount Park.
- (iii) That the present playground at Davenport School be transferred to Wadsworth Park.
- (iv) That the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation be instructed to include in his 1956 Estimates the sum of Eighteen Thousand (\$18,000.00) dollars to equip new playgrounds and provide small service buildings at the following locations:-

13. (iv) (continued)

Edgewood Park

Monarch Park

Roehampton Park

Moncur Playground

Wells Hill Park

Woburn and Jedburgh Playground

14. Permanent Artificial Ice Rinks

- (i) That the construction of Permanent Artificial Ice Rinks be authorized at the following locations:-

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Kew Gardens | - using the existing portable refrigeration equipment at Kew Gardens and Ramsden Park and with reconstruction of existing bathing station to service both Artificial Ice Rink and Bathing Pool. |
| Monarch Park | - with new building to service Artificial Ice Rink and Bathing Pool. |
| Moss Park | - with extension to the John Innes Recreation Centre building to provide service for skaters. |
| Ramsden Park | - with service for skaters provided in the recommended Competitive Pool Building. |
| Trinity Park | - with service for skaters provided in the recommended Recreation Centre Building. |

14. (ii) That the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation be instructed to include sufficient funds in the 1956 Capital Expenditure Estimates of his Department for the construction of the above mentioned Permanent Artificial Ice Rinks and, further, that he be instructed to include annually thereafter sufficient funds in the Capital Expenditure Estimates of his Department to provide for the construction of such of these Permanent Artificial Ice Rinks for which funds have not been previously authorized.

15. Enclosed Stadia That no more enclosed Stadia be constructed, and that those now in use be progressively restored to the open field type, as an alternative to spending large amounts on maintenance when the necessity becomes apparent. As an exception to this, and because of the particular circumstances regarding existing lease involving Capital Improvements, I recommend that the National Soccer League be given an opportunity of purchasing the present site and equipment occupied by them at the Fred Hamilton Playground, and that the money received from such sale, if it is consummated, be used to extend the southerly portion of the Fred Hamilton Playground, as set out in the Recommendation covering that particular site, with the provision that a covenant be written into the deed

15. Enclosed Stadia (continued)

providing that if at any time they desire to re-sell the property, such sale be to the City or with the consent of the City.

SUGGESTIONS

1. That the Committee on Parks and Exhibitions give consideration to the appointment of a special sub-committee to study the question of charges for public recreation facilities and to submit recommendations thereon to your Committee.

2. In connection with Park Lands situated outside the limits of the City, I suggest that a special sub-committee be appointed by the Committee on Parks and Exhibitions to give study to this matter and to report to your Committee with recommendations regarding the disposition of these lands.

